

Newbury Hall Consultation Information

Growth of the Sixth Form

The successful Sixth Form at St Bart's has grown significantly in recent years. It now accommodates over 640 students, up from 608 in 2022-23 and between 508-587 in the previous four years. Pre-2018, the size of the Sixth Form was below 500. This growth is only in the Sixth Form; the Published Admission Number in Y7-11 has remained constant at 270 since 2017.

Benefits of the large Sixth Form cohort

There are multiple benefits that arise from the size of the Sixth Form, including the vibrant and dynamic community and the massive range of subjects on offer.

Space

This increased student population in the Sixth Form means that we need more space to ensure that subjects are taught in appropriate classrooms and so that sixth formers can enjoy high quality social and study space. A one-off structural shift in the timetable for this year means that we have been able to accommodate the larger current cohort of sixth form students in suitable spaces in 2023-24.

Options considered and taken

In December 2022, the Governing Body made the decision to raise the academic entry criteria for the sixth form from 2024-25, to maximise success for students. Our modelling is such that we believe that this measure will reduce the numbers on roll in the sixth form from 2024-25 onwards. The projected numbers in 2024-25 (620) and 2025-26 (600) means that we need more space for the next two years.

In January 2022, we commissioned a feasibility study to investigate solutions, but all proposals were precluded by the lack of funds available. The most appropriate and cost-effective solution, therefore, is to lease a small amount of classroom space on an annex site, which is what we are consulting on here.

The proposal

We have a proposal to lease four classrooms on the ground floor of Newbury Hall, an international school only 5-7 minutes' walk from St Bart's, for a period of 2-3 years from

April 2024. This would enable us to manage the learning experience for our large Sixth Form cohorts in 2024-25 and 2025-26, with a very small proportion of students learning for a small number of their weekly lessons in the good quality provision on offer at Newbury Hall. The aim is that we can stop relying on the additional space in 2026-27, when the sixth form cohort numbers are projected to fall to around 575, at which point we could be confident that we can accommodate the timetable effectively within the main building, thereby continuing to maintain our high standards of education.