



Consultation on a Proposal to change the age range of LeAF Studio to admit Year 9 students effective from September 2017

Consultation dates: Monday 26th June 2017 – Monday, 31st July 2017



Purpose and Process for the Consultation

LeAF Studio, as part of LeAF Academy Trust, are required to re-open the consultation, which originally took place in 2015, and is seeking your views on a proposal to change the age range of students from 14-19 to 13-19 from September 2017. Therefore, recruiting students into Year 9 from September 2017.

We would like to know what you think of this proposal and invite you to take part in this consultation. This document provides an overview of the proposal and information is provided on the timeline for the consultation and next steps.

Responses are welcome via the form included with this document. Please return your response to:

Mr P Holman
Executive Principal
LeAF Studio
Holloway Avenue
Bournemouth
BH11 9JW

You can also email your comments to: thall@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk or telephone 01202 774608

This document and response form are also available on line:
<http://studioschool.leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk/>

This consultation will close on Monday 31st July 2017

LeAF Studio Introduction

LeAF Studio opened in 2013 as a 14-19 Studio School which provides mainstream education to students with a focus on employability skills and specialises in developing Athletes and Performing Arts students. All pre-16 students study GCSE subjects alongside their chosen specialism.

LeAF Studio is situated in a new, purpose built building in Holloway Avenue and it is part of LeAF Academy Trust. The Pupil Admission Number (PAN) is 500 and as a small school LeAF Studio provides a respectful environment, where students and staff know each other well and work together productively.

A vast majority of our students achieve expected progress in their studies and a significant number will achieve a positive progress score and at least strong passes or equivalent in their KS4 subjects.

LeAF Studio environment is designed to feel like more of a workplace and the hours students attend can reflect a longer day in some cases. Alongside this, students have good opportunities to apply for work placements and the school offers a focus on employability skills.

Curriculum Overview

Details of the pre-16 and Post 16 curriculum is as detailed in the tables below:

Pre 16	Stage and Screen	Development Athlete
Specialist Learning	Two from following: Dance Drama Music Media	Two from following: PE Media Drama Dance
Specialist Training/Technical Training	Ballet, Tap, Vocal Technique, Auditions and Acting/ Singing, Musical Theatre, Strength and Conditioning, Music Technology	Strength & Conditioning Sports Psychology Performance Lifestyle – Nutrition, Time management, Target setting, etc. On-site specialist training for Volleyball, Badminton and Football athletes
Core Subjects	GCSEs in: English Literature and Language Double Science Maths	
Options	Option 1: History or French or Business Option 2: Geography or Spanish or Philosophy & Ethics (RE)	
Enrichment	Rock Challenge School Production(s) Exams in various dance	Competition relevant to sports specialism, e.g. Dorset School Games, Sainsbury's School Games, links with external sports clubs for further training opportunities

Post 16	Stage and Screen	Development Athlete
Specialist Learning	AS or A2 Dance or BTEC L3 Performing Arts	BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport
Specialist Training/Technical Training	Ballet, Tap, Vocal Technique, Auditions and Acting/ Singing, Musical Theatre, Music Technology, Strength and Conditioning, Stretch	Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) – Level 3 qualification in conjunction with Volleyball England Strength & Conditioning Sports Psychology Performance Lifestyle – Nutrition, Time management, Target setting etc.

		On-site specialist training for Volleyball, Badminton and Football athletes
Subjects – a choice of	A-level Biology; Maths English Lit; Philosophy and Ethics; Business Psychology; BTEC Creative Media Music Technology Games Development Sport	A-level Biology; Maths English Lit; Philosophy and Ethics; Business Psychology; BTEC Creative Media Music Technology Performing Arts Games Development
Enrichment	Rock Challenge School Production(s) Exams in various dance	Competition relevant to sports specialism, e.g. Dorset School Games, Sainsbury’s School Games, links with external sports clubs for further training opportunities

Background to Proposal

Since opening, LeAF have become increasingly aware that there is a strong case for moving the focus for pre-16 recruitment from Year 10 to Year 9, for the reasons outlined below:

New GCSE specifications have now been introduced in many subjects in most local Schools and Academies. The examinations are becoming more challenging and many schools are now teaching the GCSE syllabus from Year 9 to ensure full coverage. It is understandable that parents would be reluctant to move their child to another school between Year 9 and Year 10. Therefore, students wishing to join LeAF Studio would be unable to do so without risking disruption to their education and courses that may have already started in their current schools.

By providing an intake into Year 9, students would be in a position to make a choice without worrying about the impact on progress of KS4 results.

With the need for increased places at secondary level rising over the next few years this would also provide more school places in the surrounding area. Therefore, any impact on local schools would be negligible.

The Proposal

At present, LeAF Studio provides education for students aged 14 – 19, with recruitment into Year 10 and Year 12.

LeAF Studio currently admits a total of 500 students, of which, there are 115 places for students in Year 10; 115 places for Year 11 and 270 places for Years 12 and 13 combined.

We are proposing that, from September 2017, LeAF Studio will begin admittance of students to Year 9 to fit in with the rise in student numbers across the locality of the three Local Authorities of Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset. Overall, the numbers admitted to LeAF Studio will not change. However, the decrease in size of pre-16 year groups will mean that the Studio will need to continue to recruit a small number of students to Year 12 each year.

The proposed numbers for each year group are detailed in the summary below:

Year Group	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Year 9	0	80	80
Year 10	115	115	80
Year 11	115	75	80
Year 12 & 13	270	230	260

Next Steps

The Learning and Achievement Federation (LeAF) welcomes comments from all stakeholders on the proposal set out in this document.

A meeting for the local community has been scheduled on Thursday, 13th July, 4.00pm at LeAF Studio.

All views expressed during the consultation will be reported to and considered by the LeAF Trust Board after the consultation period has ended.

If it is decided that a formal proposal to recruit students in to Year 9 is the best way forward, we will work with the Educational Funding Agency (EFA) and Headteachers' Board to gain approval from the Secretary of State.

Proposed Timeline

Action	Timescale
Consultation Period	26th June – 31st July 2017
Meeting for Stakeholders	13 th July - 4.00pm
Seek approval from the EFA / HtB	14 th July 2017
Report on consultation to Trust Board	19 th July 2017
Decision by the Secretary of State	31 st July 2017
Proposed Implementation	1 st September 2017