

Our Ref: RH/SW/Atrium

30 August 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, pupil numbers on roll at the Atrium Studio School ('the Atrium') have been falling since 2019, with only 28 students on roll as at the October 2021 census. Earlier this year the Local Authority ('LA') confirmed that no pupils had applied to join the school for academic year 2022/23 meaning there will be no students on roll at 1 September 2022.

Given this decline in pupil numbers, the Trust has been consulting closely with the LA and the Regional Schools Director's office of the on-going viability of the academy. As part of this process, the LA confirmed that it did not expect pupil recruitment to change significantly at the Atrium in the foreseeable future due to its location, the specialist offer and other general demographics. It advised that the Devon demographic dataset demonstrates that there are plenty of secondary schools places locally which had capacity to absorb pupils if the Atrium were to close. Staffing numbers at the school have already reduced in line with the falling roll and those remaining Atrium employees can be re-deployed within the Trust without need for compulsory redundancy.

As such I am therefore writing to you as part of a listening period with staff, parents, carers and other stakeholders to determine whether the Trust should proceed with its proposal to close the Academy with effect from 31 August 2023 and we would like to invite your views on this matter.

The listening period will commence on 5 September 2022 and will close at 11:59pm on 26 September 2022. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could share your feedback prior to this date.

Questions, views and feedback can be submitted by email to admin@westst.org.uk.

Alternatively you can write to:

Rob Haring, CEO, Westcountry Schools Trust, 51 Encombe Street, Plymouth, Devon PL9 7GN.

Thank you for your participation in this listening period.

Yours faithfully



Rob Haring CEO
Westcountry Schools Trust