



Headteacher
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Sandhurst School

the opportunity to succeed

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24th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Year 12, September 2023

We wrote today to the parents of those students who had interviewed for a place in Year 12 at Sandhurst this coming September.

We have this week had to make the difficult decision to withdraw our Year 12 offer this year.

We interviewed 120 students and always ask at the time of the interview the students if they have made applications to other colleges, school sixth forms or apprenticeships. We also ask them to rank their destinations in order of preference.

Up until the first week in March we estimated 50 students returning as first choice and would have been able to put together an offer for those 50. Mr Laws had begun looking at the timetable. However, as more recent offers from outside sixth forms have come in we have found ourselves unable to offer the original options e.g. a drama class of two is not a viable option and so in fairness to the students we have to let them know this will not run and even though they will likely choose a different destination. This then reduces the remaining class sizes in their other option subjects.

We have today written to the parents of all 120 applicants because last Friday we found ourselves with only 14 confirmed first choice applicants. I know that each and every one of these students has strong ties to us and wants to come here and we have explored several options but it is impossible to run a sixth form year group with so few students who all have different option choices. None of them would be following their first choice of courses and the other social and enrichment aspects of sixth form would be absent.

This is devastating for this particular group of students and we have offered in the letter to their parents to do all we can to secure and facilitate places in other sixth forms. Anyone impacted has the opportunity to sign up for a meeting to discuss options moving forward.

The intention is to offer sixth form places for Year 12 in September 2024 and a working party of governors, staff and representatives of the Corvus Learning Trust will support the school moving forward to be able to build a vibrant, viable sixth form.

Developments will be communicated with you as they emerge.

I am personally distraught to have let down those students who chose us as their first choice for sixth form and apologise for the distress this will create for some families.

I have chosen to write to all families in all years so that you are aware of the current situation.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D Smith
Headteacher

