



Conyers School
& Sixth Form College



Post 16 Meeting

Transitions Group

People Select Committee on the 11th May



EGGLESCLIFFE SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Purpose

- ***To strengthen student retention and progression to Stockton-on-Tees POST 16 provision through improved planning, collaboration, and communication.***
- ***To understand the challenges faced by centres and how to best advise and guide students and parents based on a collective understanding from all Post 16 settings. Including those where 11-18 education can inform the group from both Pre and Post 16 views”***

Group met twice around other scheduled Post 16 meetings

- 21 October 2025
- 17 March 2026

Findings

Early Awareness is key

Findings that early advice and guidance helps...

- Work with schools to help parents better understand how GCSE outcomes (G Score) can link to post 16 progression
- The earlier this info is known the better, e.g.
 - Year 9 option choices can impact future pathways
 - We agreed that there is a need for consistent messaging between schools and colleges

Student Choice & Retention influences

- Friendship groups
- Travel time and ease of access to colleges
- Some students return to local providers
- Agreement to collect data via research at all SBC colleges to better understand the influences better.

Supporting Vulnerable Learners

- Stockton Council's Transitions Team has introduced person-centred planning from age 14 for students with EHCPs and those involved with social care.
- The Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) Day was highlighted as a strong example of effective multi-agency working.
- However, challenges remain, including the late identification of non-attenders and inconsistent use of application systems.
- The group agreed to work collaboratively to strengthen, support and improve processes in these areas.

Data & Communication

- Greater clarity between schools and colleges will help to 'land' students better in post 16 colleges – work is underway to ensure this happens
- GDPR can be a concern, and some students want a 'fresh start'.
- Work to secure borough-wide data framework using both school and college data management systems is happening
- Best way to support all students but especially, vulnerable learners

Post-16 Transitions Survey – Key Findings

College / Sixth Form	Number of Responses 340
Egglescliffe Sixth Form	139
Bede Sixth Form College (Billingham)	128
Stockton Sixth Form College	52
Conyers Sixth Form	21

- Local colleges remain popular - sample shows that 83% of students are from Stockton Borough and remain in local provision
- **Open events matter:**
 - 73% attended open evenings
 - 71% attended taster sessions
- **Transport is critical:** 82% said travel influenced their decision
- **Cross-borough consideration:** 37% considered studying outside the borough, but most stayed local
- **Key decision drivers:**
 - Accessibility and transport convenience
 - Quality of open events and engagement
 - Strength of local post-16 offer
- **Key Insight:**
 - Local provision remains competitive, but transport and early engagement are decisive factors in student choice.

Curriculum & Clarity

- It is agreed that there is a wide range of opportunities for younger learners and our offer is strong with all providers Outstanding and Good (last OFSETD inspections) – note new framework and scorecard in place from Sept 2026
- Outcomes in the Borough are competitive and while this is clearly a benefit, this can also create challenges as the choice can be confusing for both pupils and parents
- Academic ‘jargon’ can confuse learners and families
- Proposal for central ‘jargon buster’ resource agreed that can simplify the process

Events & Engagement

- Plans are in place for borough-wide careers/education in September 2026 – The Globe is the preferred venue
- Year 9–10 will be targeted as well as Y11 students and families (note - Year 10 events held at all colleges)
- The Borough Council is piloting work experience programme throughout the borough to comply with the new legislation around WEX

Outcomes to date

- Footfall at open events is significantly increasing on all sites
- Applications for the coming 26/27 year are again showing a positive trajectory
- Work ongoing on all sites to secure conversion
- Careers team sharing cross borough data on NEETS to ensure all students without destinations have best chance to secure positive outcomes

Any questions?