



Department
for Education

Rebecca Clark
Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West
2 Rivergate
Bristol
BS1 6EH

Dr Karen Stockham (Chair of Trustees)
Katherine Davis Willis (Head teacher)
Laurence Frewin (Company Secretary)
Devon Studio School
187 Newton Road,
Torquay, Devon,
TQ2 7FT

13 July 2017

Dear Karen, Kate, and Laurence,

DECISION ON TERMINATING THE FUNDING AGREEMENT – DEVON STUDIO SCHOOL TRUST

I am writing to inform you that after careful consideration Ministers have now made a final decision and agreed to mutually terminate the funding agreement of the Devon Studio School trust. This will enable directors to close the school as a separate entity by 1 September 2017 and merge its provision with that run by South Devon College.

We were grateful that a small number of stakeholders took the opportunity to inform us of their views on the proposed closure during our listening engagement. We understand the concerns expressed, for example from some parents with pupils at the school that have complex learning needs. However, on balance, we believe that existing pupils requiring a place from September 2017 will receive a more sustainable educational offer at South Devon College or at another suitable local provider.

Our shared priority must now be to ensure pupils currently at Devon Studio School have access to a high quality education from this September. We are encouraged to see that the trust has been providing comprehensive support to parents/carers of existing pupils moving to either the College or alternative local education establishments.

We look to you to continue to provide this support in cooperation with officials at Torbay and Devon local authorities between now and the end of term ensuring all current pupils secure a place at a school by September 2017.

We appreciate this may be an unsettling time for school staff, pupils and their parents and we would be grateful for the opportunity to continue to work collaboratively with you, your team, and Torbay and Devon LA officers, in ensuring that the transition to new schools for Devon Studio School pupils is as smooth as possible over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Clark
Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West

Email: RSC.SW@education.gsi.gov.uk

Copied to:

- Kevin Foster MP for Torbay
- Dr Sarah Wollaston, MP for Totnes
- Anne Marie Morris, MP for Newton Abbot
- Stephen Criddle, Principal of South Devon College
- Jo Olsson, Chief Officer for Children's Services, Devon local authority
- Andy Dempsey, Director of Children's Services, Torbay local authority
- Simon Niles, Strategic Planning Children's Services, Devon Local Authority
- Christine McNeil, School Organisation Policy Manager, Devon Local Authority
- Rachael Williams, Head of Education, Torbay local authority
- Tricia Harwood, Torbay local authority
- Parents/carers of pupils at Devon Studio School