**To what extent do you feel that Nottingham Free School fosters individuality and lateral thinking in its students?**

All schools aim to develop each individual student according to their strengths and abilities, and also prepare them for the next stage in life and within society. At NFS, we have many forums for individuals to develop their own personalities both within and beyond the standard curriculum. In particular, our extra-curricular activities enable students to choose activities of interest (that would not usually be available as part of a school day) which develop their particular skills and talents. Our regular curiosity challenges provide the opportunity to broaden their understanding of a subject or topic and respond to it in a medium of their choice.

Part of belonging to a society will mean that individuals have to understand that compromises may have to be made where their individual desires conflict with the needs of the majority. It is part of our role to teach students how this aspect of our society works. The student council is a vehicle for individuals to express their views and learn how to do this within a democracy. Their views are heard and responded to and we have many examples in school of how the facilities and aspects of the school day have been shaped by this process. For example, the activities on offer in extra-curricular, the food menu, the outside environment, lockers and the new break-time food service are all a direct result of student feedback.

**Will there be separate year 7, year 8 and year 9 football teams in September?**

This very much depends on the numbers of students and level of interest in each year group. When playing in official city competitions, the groups are based on under 13’s (i.e. years 7 and 8) and under 15’s (just year 9 in September) and the teams will be chosen accordingly.

However, informal fixtures between other schools, may well be year teams only e.g. separate fixtures/teams for year 7 and 8.

**In terms of the proposed trust merger:**

1. **Will NFS staff and/or students be expected to travel to different sites**

No, each school remains a separate entity, just as it is now. There are no shared sites.

1. **How will the proposed merger affect NFS’s ethos of being a small local school?**

The merger has no impact on the ethos of NFS. All schools currently within the group, have their own unique contexts and ethos and this will not change.

1. **Will the sharing of resources be based on need and not postcode. Can it be explained what type of resources will be shared.**

Sharing of resources is currently, and will continue to be, based on need and the sharing of good practice/expertise. Currently, shared resources are focused mainly on staff expertise, for example, a member of staff works across the schools to look at building projects and obtaining bids for site improvements. Core subject staff meet across the schools to develop common assessments, resources and to share good practice. Central services for aspects of IT, HR and finance operate across all schools.

In terms of sharing of resources from a student perspective, experiences might include; a joint maths conference for year 11 students held in the Easter break, NFS using the Sherwood Rise theatre for our summer evening drama performance and sporting fixtures between schools.

As we currently already have a working relationship with the schools involved in the trust merger, the sharing of resources already exists in many cases, but will be much easier and more cost effective by being in the same trust.

1. **Could a change of directorship/governance of the proposed trust impact on the ethos of NFS and change its direction (e.g. be a feeder school for NUAST, in essence just be a 7-9 school)**

The directorship/governance of the trust will consist of existing members and there are no plans to change the focus of NFS. NFS has a local governing body which will remain the same.