

SIR GEORGE MONOUX COLLEGE

Proposed 16 to 19 Academy Conversion

Joining Drapers' Multi-Academy Trust

www.sgmc.ac.uk/consultation

THE PROPOSAL

1

Dissolve as a Sixth Form College Corporation

The Corporation of Sir George Monoux College proposes to dissolve the existing Sixth Form College Corporation. This would be carried out in accordance with the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and associated regulations, which require the formal publication of dissolution proposals as part of the consultation process.

2

Convert to 16–19 Academy Status

Following dissolution, the college would be re-established as a 16–19 Academy. This change in legal form would enable the college to operate within the academy framework whilst continuing to deliver the same broad and inclusive programme of post-16 education it provides today, without interruption to students or courses.

3

Join Drapers' Multi-Academy Trust

The new academy would be operated by Drapers' Multi-Academy Trust. The Trust is sponsored by Queen Mary University of London and The Drapers' Company — both organisations with long-standing ties to Sir George Monoux College and a deep commitment to east London's communities and young people.

WHY ARE WE CONSIDERING THIS?

The Corporation is fully committed to ensuring the college remains in the strongest possible position to provide high-quality, inclusive post-16 education. Following a strategic review, the Corporation believes that joining a strong multi-academy trust offers significant benefits for students, staff and the wider community.

Ambition for students

The college must remain an attractive destination for school leavers and a setting where students from all backgrounds — including those from disadvantaged communities — can thrive and progress.

Collaborative leadership

An efficient and collaborative approach to executive leadership within a trust model will increase focus and resource on educational delivery and community partnership.

Sponsorship & networks

Increased sponsorship support from QMUL and The Drapers' Company will bring richer enrichment, HE and career guidance, and professional development opportunities for staff and students alike.

Government reform agenda

The College has considered the Schools White Paper Every Child Achieving and Thriving (2026), which recognises the role of strong trusts in improving outcomes, building expertise and strengthening long-term resilience.

Staff development & autonomy

Staff will benefit from a broader professional learning network while retaining the professional autonomy they value. The college would remain a member of the Sixth Form Colleges Association (SFCA).

Financial sustainability

Through shared services and more efficient purchasing, the college will be better placed to direct funding towards curriculum delivery, estate investment, and the continuing improvement of the student experience.

DRAPERS' MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

The Corporation believes the Drapers' Multi-Academy Trust is the strongest strategic fit for Sir George Monoux College. There are five key reasons for this conclusion.

1

Long-standing institutional relationships —

The college has a deep and long-established relationship with both primary Trust sponsors — Queen Mary University of London and The Drapers' Company — making this a natural and well-founded partnership.

2

Preserved character and voice —

The college would join the Trust as a large, high-performing partner with its own expertise, performance record and legacy in sixth form education. It would maintain its distinctive character, inclusive ethos, and continued SFCA membership.

3

A coherent local east London partnership —

Both sponsors have a highly respected, centuries-long affiliation to east London. Together they create an aspirational, socially mobile model of sixth form study that is deeply relevant to families and young people in the local area.

4

Efficiency reinvested in education —

Shared services, more efficient management and streamlined administration and procurement will generate savings that can be directed back into curriculum delivery and the professional development of staff.

5

Investment in people and the estate —

The expertise and networks of the Trust and its sponsors will enhance enrichment, HE and career guidance for students, and support investment in the college's physical estate — benefiting everyone who learns and works here.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

The Corporation wants to be clear about what would — and what would not — change for students, staff and the community if the proposal proceeds.

Legal status

Sir George Monoux College would become a 16–19 Academy operated by Drapers' Multi-Academy Trust. The Sixth Form College Corporation would be formally dissolved.

Courses and curriculum

All existing courses and programmes would continue. Any future changes to the curriculum would be made through the college's normal planning processes, as is the case today.

Community commitment

The college would continue to serve its local community, maintaining its broad and inclusive intake and its strong focus on social mobility and progression for students from east London.

Staff employment

Staff would transfer to the academy trust under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations — TUPE. A formal employment consultation process would take place as part of this.

Day-to-day operation

The college's day-to-day operation, educational provision and commitment to students would continue uninterrupted throughout the conversion process and beyond. There would be no disruption to students currently enrolled.

Governance and leadership

The college would retain its own principal, senior leadership team and local governing body. The college's identity, values and ethos would be preserved as part of the trust arrangement.

RISKS AND SAFEGUARDS

The Corporation recognises that any significant organisational change carries risks. The following areas will be carefully considered as part of the decision-making process, alongside all views and concerns raised through this consultation.

Impact on students and staff

The Corporation will carefully assess the potential impact of conversion on the student experience, on staff terms and conditions, and on staff and student wellbeing. The employment consultation process under TUPE will give staff a formal opportunity to raise questions and concerns.

Financial implications

All financial consequences of the dissolution and transfer — including liabilities, pension arrangements, and the ongoing cost of operating within the trust — will be subject to detailed financial analysis and independent advice before any final decision is taken.

Governance arrangements

The Corporation will ensure that appropriate and robust governance structures are put in place post-conversion, including the college's own governing body, to protect the interests of students, staff and the local community within the academy trust framework.

Preservation of identity and ethos

The college's distinctive character — its broad and inclusive student population, diverse curriculum, community links, and exceptional record of progression — will be safeguarded. The Corporation will take all steps necessary to ensure these defining qualities are protected throughout and after any conversion.

SIR GEORGE MONOUX COLLEGE TODAY

Sir George Monoux College is a thriving sixth form college in east London, providing full-time education to 1,927 students aged 16 to 19. The college also has a specialist provision for 14 to 16 year olds who have recently moved to the UK.

1,900

full-time students

16–19

primary age range

14–16

specialist new arrivals
provision

**All
programmes**

full-time enrolment

Curriculum and programmes

The college offers A Levels and Level 3 Applied General qualifications and T Levels, alongside GCSE resit courses in Mathematics and English and some Level 2 programmes. The college has a distinctive and much-valued character as a sixth form college, with a broad and inclusive student population drawn from across east London. It is known for a diverse curriculum offer and exceptional rates of progression to higher education and other aspirational career destinations.