



Department
for Education

Lisa Mannall
Regional Schools Commissioner for
the South West
2 Rivergate
Bristol
BS1 6EH

12 February 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

Closure of The Bath Studio School (TBSS)

Having considered the views of parents and other interested parties, following a listening period that ran for 5 weeks from 23 October to 27 November 2018, Department for Education Ministers have now made a final decision to close The Bath Studio School at the end of the summer term, 2020. A letter informing Wellsway multi academy trust (WMAT) of this decision is available to view on both the TBSS and WMAT websites.

Since TBSS opened in September 2014, the school has failed to recruit pupils to its capacity. There are only 123 pupils on roll currently meaning the school is only 41% full and numbers are predicted to fall further. As school budgets are largely determined by the number of pupils in a school, such low numbers make it very challenging to provide a sustainably high quality education for all pupils.

We were grateful that a number of parents/carers of pupils at TBSS took the opportunity to inform us of their views on the proposed closure during the listening period. We have taken careful account of the views expressed and given consideration to the alternatives to closure put forward. While we understand the concerns expressed by parents, on balance we believe that the pupils at TBSS will receive a more sustainable and high quality education in a neighbouring school or college with an assured future.

I appreciate this is an unsettling time for The Bath Studio School pupils, parents and staff. The school will remain open until the end of the summer term 2020 to allow all pupils to complete their current examination courses. We have requested that WMAT continue to provide information and support to all year 11 pupils and next year, to all year 10 pupils to help them identify the most appropriate school or college for their post 16 courses.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Mannall', with a small horizontal line at the end.

Lisa Mannall
Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West