

Dear Member of the Bents Green/Handsworth Grange Community Sports College Communities,

Consultation on sustaining a small specialist hub

Since September 2025, a small number of Bents Green students have been accessing space at Handsworth Grange. We are now consulting on making this a more permanent arrangement. Until 27th March 2026 we are openly consulting with all stakeholders on a proposal for Bents Green Special School and Handsworth Grange Community Sports College to work in partnership to sustain the small specialist hub at Handsworth Grange Community Sports College. This would mean a small provision, run by Bents Green School for 20 pupils with special educational needs who, with the right support, can successfully access elements of the mainstream curriculum. Please read this newsletter for more details and we would really like to hear your views through the consultation.

What is a *small specialist hub*?

The hub would provide an offer for around 20 students. The plan would initially be for the hub to have a base in the former caretaker's house. The students would be on Bents Green Special School's roll and overall would be the responsibility of Bents Green Special School. The staff from Bents Green would then support the young people with their overall curriculum and the needs outlined in their Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs), as well as supporting them to access elements of the mainstream curriculum. Access to the places would be through placement by the local authority as part of a student's EHCP. The hub students would have special educational needs relating to communication and interaction (most commonly autism) and it is hoped that as other developments happen across the city, the provision would be more clearly defined for young people from the southeast part of Sheffield.

Bents Green is an Ofsted-rated Good special school with skilled staff who have experience of supporting pupils with complex needs to access the mainstream curriculum. Handsworth Grange is a strong local community mainstream school, whose vision is to deliver exceptional education for every student, every day. We believe this partnership can deliver an excellent, innovative, and much-needed provision for a small number of young people in Sheffield.

Key messages:

- The provision will be designed to enable a small cohort of young people achieve their potential through curriculum and qualifications that they might otherwise not be able to access;

- The Hub should not have any impact on the current Handsworth Grange offer – places would not be reduced for current and future pupils;
- Bents Green and Handsworth Grange, as well as Nexus MAT and Minerva Learning Trust, are committed to working in partnership to make this a really positive development for all pupils;
- Sheffield City Council would fund the placements;
- If the proposal goes ahead, it would be formally established as a satellite of Bents Green School from September 2026;
- We want to hear the views of stakeholders.

So we would like as many families and wider stakeholders as possible to:

- Let us know if you have any concerns or questions about the proposal; and/or,
- Let us know if you are supportive of the hub going ahead.

Find out more & tell us what you think

We are keen to answer your questions and find out what you think. You can:

- Email us questions or comments to consultation@nexusmat.org
- Submit questions or comments through the survey - [Bents Green Hub Consultation Spring '26 – Fill in form](#) (or QR code below)
- Drop off a written response at Bents Green School or Handsworth Grange

What happens next?

The consultation will run until 27th March 2026. This is a partnership between the two schools and between Minerva Learning Trust and Nexus Multi Academy Trust. As the formal change would apply to Bents Green Special School, at the end of the period, formally, the Nexus Trust Board of Directors will gather all responses and look to submit the proposal to the Regional Director who will decide the proposal on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education.

We hope you understand the proposal, the reasons behind it, and trust that this is a genuine consultation – your views are important to us and they can help shape what happens next.

Yours faithfully

Joel Hardwick
Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Nexus Multi Academy Trust

