 <p data-bbox="667 174 1043 253">Rediscovering potential, rebuilding futures</p>	
	<p data-bbox="485 338 1038 376">Proposed Changes to Rise Academy</p>	<p data-bbox="1118 376 1347 412">26th February 2018</p>

Dear colleague

Since Rise Academy was launched in September 2014 it has been constantly over-subscribed. The places have been commissioned by both the Local Authority and schools. For the last three years the number of students on roll has exceeded 120 by May census point. In January 2018 the number on roll was 205. Rise Academy is currently funded for 60 students.

Potential changes to the commissioning arrangements for permanently excluded pupils have been suggested by successive governments but little has changed in this regard, although the pressures on high needs block funding may result in schools having to become increasingly responsible for the commissioning of alternative provision in the future.

Rise Academy, despite being constantly over-subscribed, is funded as a 60 place Alternative Provision (AP) setting and this creates difficulties in retaining a stable staff structure that provides the significant emotional support that our secondary colleagues have come to rely upon. Similarly, over-subscription in the special school settings is having an impact on the number of young people supported in Rise Academy with SEND needs. There are currently 15 young people with Education and Health Care Plans at Rise Academy.

In September 2017 Rise Academy began offering 40 places in Key Stage 3 to all secondary schools. This provision is already full and eight of these students in Year 7 and 8 have been identified as requiring specialist support through an Education and Health Care Plan.

Since September 2017 Rise Academy has been asked by primary schools and also the local authority SEN team to provide further support for children of primary school age with social, emotional and mental health difficulties. This has not been possible as Rise Academy is designated as 11 to 16-year provision. Despite the 200 AP places available in the secondary sector there are only 35 places available to our primary colleagues. The consequence of this means that many children who transfer into Year 7 have significant emotional difficulties that affect their successful transition, despite the efforts of primary school staff to avoid permanent exclusion.

The numbers of children who were permanently excluded in Year 7 rose from 3 in 2015/16 to 12 in 2016/17. Rise Academy seeks to offer 25 places in Key Stage 2 to support both our primary colleagues across the city but also to support the successful transition of vulnerable children at secondary transfer.

Rise Academy has secured premises on a primary school site that will be able to support 25 full time places in Key Stage 2. These students will have access to high quality support for social, emotional and mental health difficulties. The provision will be totally separate from Rise Academy secondary provision.

Rise Academy seeks your response to the following proposal:

To be able to offer 120 places overall from Year 3 to Year 11.

The breakdown of places would be thus:

Key Stage 2: 25

Key Stage 3: 45

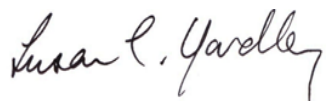
Key Stage 4: 50

It is hoped that both primary and secondary colleagues will support this change to make sure that in the future there is support for all schools when they need it and most importantly schools can have an alternative to permanent exclusion when faced with a child who presents with challenging behaviour.

The consultation will begin from 26th February 2018 until 9th April 2018.

Please respond to this proposal on the form attached.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan L. Yardley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'S' at the beginning.

S Yardley
Headteacher
Rise Academy

