

***Houghton Kerpier Sports College***  
***A Trust School***

***Public consultation on a proposal to raise the upper age limit  
to provide sixth form education – A Rationale***

## What to do next

Please read this document which provides an overview of the proposals being put forward, the implications of these proposals, and details of the timeline for consultation and what happens next.

Also please consider the feasibility report, as part of section 4, that we have commissioned in researching this proposal.

You may wish to return the response form in this booklet on pages 13 and 14 or email us at [j.forster@houghtonkepier.org.uk](mailto:j.forster@houghtonkepier.org.uk) by 3.30pm on Friday 17 July 2009 and/or attend the consultation meeting to be held at the sports college at 3.30pm on Wednesday 1 July 2009; where we will listen to your views.

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# HOUGHTON KEPIER SPORTS COLLEGE

## 1. Executive Summary

As a Trust School, Houghton Kepier Sports College is proposing to increase its upper age limit to 19 in order to provide sixth form education on site. The proposed date of implementation is 1 September 2010. This will provide the opportunity for learners within the Houghton Le Spring area to engage in local post sixteen education, raise their aspirations and promote improved standards both in school and the wider educational community.

Partnership working is a real strength of the college, recognised as outstanding in our recent (January 2009) Ofsted inspection. Houghton Kepier Sports College will remain committed to working in partnership with other 14-19 providers and will aim to build upon the good working relationships already established.

The proposal to add a sixth form to Houghton Kepier Sports College would not only raise the aspiration and motivation of its learners, it would contribute towards;

- providing better access to post 16 education for the young people of Houghton-le-Spring and surrounding area and keep them engaged in learning;
- encouraging young people to remain in education post 16 by offering a curriculum which is personalised and more relevant to their needs across all levels; including those with special educational needs
- providing career development opportunities for staff and hence an improved offer when recruiting new teachers or retaining good existing staff;
- providing good role models to the younger learners during their KS3 preparation stage;
- raising aspirations and standards across the whole school and its community.
- providing continuity of provision from 14 to 19 years without the institutional break at 16.

Parents/carers and learners please pay particular attention to section 5, as this will be most relevant for you.

The Governing Body will consider the outcome of the consultation and then decide on whether to publish Statutory Proposals to increase the upper age limit or to remain an 11-16 school.

We have tried to put forward the proposals in a clear manner and there are opportunities to attend a public meeting and ask questions about the proposals. We are open to alternative suggestions and nothing in this consultation document or process pre-determines the outcome of the consultation.

## 2. Rationale and Aims

Houghton Kepier Sports College aims to expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area by offering provision on-site post 16. We intend to improve the educational or training achievements of learners by providing first-class provision, to increase participation in education or training post 16 in line with DCSF intentions and further reduce the number of learners in our area who do not continue in education or training post 16.

The Houghton Kepier Sports College Sixth Form will provide diversity and choice for families living locally, in an area where there is currently no existing post 16 provision. It will provide an alternative to existing models of sixth form and FE provision. Having post 16 provision on site will contribute to raising the standards of provision available to those in our area.

We will use our highly qualified staff and our Trust partners to lead learner achievement post 16 and provide a more diverse, varied and relevant learning experience. Personalised learning will be at the centre of this experience. Our Trust partners will help to motivate our learners in order to raise aspirations and ensure that standards continue to rise. They will also help to improve access to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and engage learners to think about their future learning. We will motivate and encourage learners to participate in education and training post 16 who might otherwise have opted out at 16.

In keeping with the DCSF vision for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools: A World-class Education for every Child (DCSF, December 2008), our vision is for 16 -19 provision which:

- provides excellent teaching, personalised education and development in an environment of good behaviour;
- provides continuity from 11-19 with no need for a change of institution at 16;
- identifies and helps to address additional needs;
- provides a range of activities and opportunities to enrich the lives of children, families and the wider community;
- works effectively with parents, other providers and wider children's services.

Our vision for Houghton Kepier Sports College supports the shared vision for young people in the City of Sunderland, developed by the 14-19 Partnership; currently in draft:

"All 14-19 year olds in Sunderland will be engaged in high quality structured learning that meets their needs, raises their aspirations, and exceeds their expectations. They will be confident and properly equipped to contribute to the future economic prosperity of the City and the region."

Developing provision for 16-19 year olds at Houghton Kepier Sports College is in line with the eight strategic priorities of the City of Sunderland's 14-19 Partnership:

- Ensure high quality and personalised pathways to maximise achievement and progression for all young people
- Increase participation in Education, Employment and Training.
- Ensure young people have access to high quality, impartial Information, Advice and Guidance and appropriate support
- Develop our collaboration into a mature, honest and open partnership focussed on learners
- Develop a highly skilled and innovative workforce
- Develop effective links with employers to ensure high quality work related learning
- Respond to diversity, achieve and celebrate equality in order to raise and realise aspirations
- Develop a world class estate to ensure quality learning environments for all young people

In developing our 16-19 provision we will be supporting the City of Sunderland in addressing most of its key challenges:

#### **Challenge 1**

To develop and deliver a robust strategy for engaging young people NEET in sustained education, training and/or employment.

#### **Challenge 2**

To increase the number of learners achieving qualifications in literacy and numeracy.

#### **Challenge 4**

To increase the proportion of Year 11 learners who progress through the qualifications framework.

#### **Challenge 5**

To increase the number of young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education.

#### **Challenge 7**

To ensure the Learner Entitlement is in place for 2013 and provision is available for the Raising of the Participation Age.

### **A System Shaped by Parents**

1. The HKSC proposed sixth form is in response to pressure from parents to provide local, high quality teaching of a full range of A-Level and other post-16 qualifications, including a range of Diplomas. This is in line with the Government's aim, as set out in the Five Year Strategy for Education and Learners and the Schools White Paper *Higher Standards, Better Schools for All*, to create a schools system shaped by parents which delivers excellence and equity.
2. The HKSC proposed sixth form helps to fulfil the new duties placed on Local Authorities to secure diversity in the provision of schools by adding a new type of school, an 11 - 19 non denominational Specialist School.
3. The HKSC proposed sixth form helps to fulfil the new duties placed on Local Authorities to increase opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of schools in their areas. By approving HKSC proposed sixth form, the Local Authority will be fulfilling its specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of schools, particularly the request to make changes to existing schools.
4. The HKSC proposed sixth form helps to fulfil the Government's aim to secure a more diverse and dynamic schools system which is shaped by parents.

### **Standards**

1. The HKSC proposed sixth form is aimed at boosting standards by increasing local opportunities for young people. The crying need to raise aspiration in the local area is well documented and is one of the key reasons for the stakeholders to support the consultation.
2. The HKSC proposed sixth form will match pupils' needs and wishes and will be a response to parents' and learners' wishes, as expressed in unsolicited comments during earlier consultation. The response to this consultation will inform any Proposal.
3. The HKSC proposed sixth form plans to raise standards across the whole cohort of learners in the Houghton Area.
4. The HKSC proposed sixth form will raise local standards by filling a significant gap in provision.
5. The HKSC proposed sixth form will lead to improved attainment for children and young people. Post-16 potential learners from deprived backgrounds perceive an added cost in travelling significant distances to attend courses, are unable or unwilling to pay the increased costs and

therefore do not enrol. By attracting these groups, the HKSC proposed sixth form will help to narrow the attainment gap.

6. Since local provision may displace some learners from existing providers, it is important to note the guidance at Para 4.30 of the Decision Makers' Guidance that it is for the Local Authority to manage any such displacement. However, the HKSC proposed sixth form meets the statutory SEN improvement test in that
  - it takes account of the preferences of the parents of our existing SEN pupils to be given continuity as they can make a smooth transition to post-16 in a familiar environment in which they can continue to access the support to which they are accustomed
  - it offers a range of courses which respond to the needs of individual young people
7. The HKSC proposed sixth form will enable young people with special needs to have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and to participate in their school and community, which some are unable or unwilling to do at a distance, but which will now be provided locally.

## **Diversity**

*The Government's aim is to transform our school system so that every child receives an excellent education – whatever their background and wherever they live. A vital part of the Government's vision is to create a more diverse school system offering excellence and choice, where each school has a strong ethos and sense of mission and acts as a centre of excellence or specialist provision.*

1. The HKSC proposed sixth form helps to fulfil the Government's aim to transform our school system by offering an excellent education to every young person in Houghton Le Spring, whatever their background and wherever they live.
2. The HKSC proposed sixth form creates a more diverse school system in the local authority area, where there is no non denominational school sixth form provision.
3. By establishing a new type of school in Houghton Le Spring, the HKSC proposed sixth form contributes to local diversity.
4. The HKSC proposed sixth form also establishes a more diverse post-16 system. Within the City, there will be an FE College, three new Academies, three denominational Sixth Forms and one non denominational Sixth Form.
5. The HKSC proposed sixth form will further widen diversity by establishing the only non denominational post-16 provision in Sunderland.
6. The HKSC proposed sixth form will help to meet the aspirations of parents and the whole local community, whose response has shown a genuine yearning for such provision.

## **Every Child Matters**

*The Decision Maker should consider how proposals will help every child and young person achieve their potential in accordance with Every Child Matters principles which are: to be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution to the community and society; and achieve economic well-being. This should include considering how the school will provide a wide range of extended services, opportunities for personal development, access to academic and vocational training, measures to address barriers to participation and support for children and young people with particular needs, e.g. looked after children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.*

1. HKSC was rated Good by OfSTED in its most recent inspection of personal development and well being, and also in care guidance and support. The Proposal now seeks to offer that quality provision and support to a wider community of post-16 learners. Through collaboration, a wide mix of academic and vocational options will be available.
2. HKSC will offer opportunities for the personal development of students; for example, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme currently undertaken at Bronze and Silver Level will be extended to Gold Award. Most importantly, it will offer local access to the wide range of extra-curricular activities which "contribute effectively to students' personal development and develop a sense of belonging to one community" (OFSTED 2009); whereas the need to travel long distances outside the area at present effectively denies much of this provision to many existing post-16 students.

3. Individual support for students, rated by OFSTED as Good and for which the school is well-known and popular, will be extended to students in the Sixth Form. For example, our Inclusion Department will offer specialist academic and pastoral mentoring.

### **Equal Opportunity Issues**

*The Decision Maker should consider whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes that are being proposed, for example, that there is equal access to single sex provision for the other sex to meet parental demand. Similarly, there needs to be a commitment to provide access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area while ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.*

1. The HKSC proposed sixth form is to offer Equal Opportunities to all students.
2. The HKSC proposed sixth form addresses the financial difficulties of potential post-16 learners from deprived backgrounds who perceive an added cost in travelling significant distances to attend courses, are unable or unwilling to pay the increased costs and therefore do not enrol. Local provision within walking and cycling distance will help to equalise opportunities for this group.

### **Aims**

To provide first-class post 16 provision at Houghton Kerpier Sports College.

To meet clearly expressed parental wishes

To increase diversity of post 16 provision and parental choice.

To raise learner aspirations to continue into further education (FE) and higher education (HE)

Widening participation in FE and HE.

To provide outstanding pastoral support post 16 to assist learners to progress through the education framework and achieve their potential.

To reduce the percentage of learners falling into the NEET (not in education, employment or training) classification.

To increase numbers of young people from low income backgrounds progressing into 14-19 provision and then in to higher education.

### 3 What will the provision be?

The provision will initially be for up to 100 places per year group.

Courses offered would include:

#### Level 3 courses - AS/A2 BTEC

Art & Design	ICT
Biology	Law
Business Studies	Mathematics
Chemistry	Media studies
Design & Technology	Music
Drama	Photography
English language	Physical Education
English literature	Physics
Food Technology	Politics
French	Psychology
Further Mathematics	Religious Studies
Geography	Sociology
German	Spanish
Health & Social Care	Textiles
History	Travel & Tourism

#### Level 2 courses - GCSE / BTEC (A\*-C level)

English & mathematics plus a range of vocational/applied learning courses eg:	Beauty Therapy
Administration	Sports studies
Business	Dance
ICT	Travel & Tourism
Child development	Retail
Construction	Health & Social Care
Hair	Plus any other courses currently taught to GCSE
Engineering	if there is sufficient demand

#### Level 1 courses - leading towards GCSE

Literacy	Engineering
Numeracy	Hair & Beauty
Key Skills	Catering
Construction	ICT
Media	Preparation for Work
Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (COPE)	Art & Design
Beauty Therapy	Introductory Diplomas in retail, business & administration
Food preparation & cooking	Cache foundation award in caring for children

## **4 Feasibility**

The Governing Body agreed to appoint a consultant to prepare a feasibility study to support this consultation and inform any future proposal. The document produced by Clarson Goff Management Ltd is attached to this consultation document.

## 5 What does this mean for learners and parents?

We aim to build on the excellent reputation of Houghton Kepier Sports College and to further develop and enhance its 14-19 provision to improve the educational opportunities for learners. Learners will be able to continue their education locally, enjoying all the benefits of Houghton Kepier Sports College and continue their education with staff and in surroundings they know.

For learners we will:

- Continue our outstanding pastoral system which focuses around you as an individual
- Ensure everyone has a personal tutor who will provide a focal point of care, support and guidance
- Ensure high quality and personalised pathways to maximise achievement and progression for all young people
- Provide curriculum continuity across 14 - 19 pathways with no artificial break at 16
- Provide excellent teaching and learning in a supportive environment in small teaching groups
- Increase participation in education, employment and training
- Provide personal help with applications to university and employment
- Monitor progress regularly and provide feedback
- Develop effective links with our Trust Partners, other work-based learning providers and employers to ensure high quality work related learning and experience
- Ensure high quality information, advice and guidance on progression from KS4 to KS5 from a secure knowledge base, leading to an increased course completion rate.
- Ensure that learners have access to high quality and impartial information, advice and guidance for progression post sixth form, with appropriate support
- Deliver the Aimhigher agenda on site, widening participation at KS5 and into HE
- Provide sporting opportunities within Sunderland and Durham to continue participating within a wide range of activities
- Benefit younger learners from having older learners on site
- Provide a wide choice of enrichment opportunities

For parents we will:

- Provide high quality of education
- Provide regular information about progress towards targets through termly reports and consultation days/evenings
- Provide continuity of education and also of parental contact with staff known to learners and their parents/carers
- Build on our existing outstanding provision for a healthy lifestyle to ensure learners at KS5 are encouraged to enjoy a healthy lifestyle
- Provide local sixth form provision to ease the financial burden on families who currently send their children to out-of-authority provision.

## 6 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation starts on the 19 June 2009 and you can comment until the 17 July 2009. Please let us know what you think about the proposal.

There are a number of ways on which you can do this. You can complete the section at the end of this booklet and return it to Houghton Kepier Sports College at the address given, including any written comments. Or you can email comments to [j.forster@houghtonkepier.org.uk](mailto:j.forster@houghtonkepier.org.uk).

If you are a member staff, you are invited to attend a staff meeting in the school to discuss the proposal at 3pm on Monday 22 June.

If you are a parent or a member of the public, please come to the public meeting to discuss the proposal with the Headteacher and Governors. The public consultation meeting will be held at the school at 3.30pm on Wednesday 1 July 2009.

Learners will be consulted via their tutor groups during the week commencing 22 June 2009.

After the consultation is closed all comments will be considered and a report will be prepared for the Governing Body. This report will be made available on the school website. Individual responses will not be published on the website but will be presented to the Governing Body and will be available for inspection by the public on request. The Governing Body will then hold a meeting to review the report and all the comments before reaching an informed decision.

The Governing Body may decide to:

- a) issue Statutory Notices about a change to the upper age limit
- b) modify the proposal in the light of suggestions made during consultation and, if the changes are significant, reconsult on the changes
- c) decide to remain as an 11-16 school without any changes

If the Governing Body decides to proceed and issues Statutory Notices there will be another chance to comment on any formal proposal.

The proposed implementation date is 1 September 2010.

Copies of all the consultation documents can be obtained from the school website or from the school. A larger type version is available on request, as is an audio version.

If you have any queries about anything you have read here and would like further clarification, please write to Mrs S Hyland, Headteacher, Houghton Kepier Sports College, Dairy Lane, Houghton Le Spring, DH4 5BH or e-mail [j.forster@houghtonkepier.org.uk](mailto:j.forster@houghtonkepier.org.uk)

## 7 LIST OF CONSULTEES

As part of the consultation process we will consult with the following:

- Parents of the learners and learners currently on the roll
- Staff currently employed, both teaching and non-teaching
- HKSC Governing Body
- Houghton Kepier Trust Board
- City of Sunderland Children's Services
- The Local Member of Parliament
- Serving local City Councillors
- Northumbria Police
- Parish Councils included in the catchment area
- Trade Unions of teaching and non-teaching staff
- Headteacher and The Chair of the Governing Body for surrounding secondary schools and partner primary schools
- Parents of learners attending HKSC from September 2009
- Learning & Skills Council
- Connexions
- Local groups and users of school facilities including nursery and child care providers, local businesses, sports and leisure groups
- Specialist Schools & Academies Trust
- Youth Sports Trust
- Adjoining Local Education Authorities, South Tyneside, Gateshead, Durham

In addition notices will be placed in local amenities to inform the public of the consultation and of the public meeting.

If you wish to make any suggestions on additional consultees or other interested parties, please contact Houghton Kepier Sports College.



5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes	No	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer:		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes	No	
Comments:		

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

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