

# **Houghton Kepier Sports College - An Academy**

## **The proposal for raising the upper age limit to provide Sixth Form education**

**December 2011**

**The date planned for the opening of the Sixth Form is 1st September  
2013 and the proposal is to be implemented by the Academy Governing  
Body.**

**Comments or objections should be sent to:  
Dr PDB Collins (Chair of Governors)  
At the academy**

**[info@hksc.org.uk](mailto:info@hksc.org.uk)**

**Dairy Lane, Houghton le Spring, Tyne and Wear. DH4 5BH**

## Alteration Description

The proposal is to expand our provision from 11 - 16 to 11 - 19 years through the addition of a Sixth Form. We will only need to make minimal changes to the interior of our existing building to create our vision of a Sixth Form at the heart of our Academy. Our Sixth Form learners, being taught throughout the existing Academy, will provide aspirational leaders and positive role models for our younger learners. We will initially make cosmetic changes converting two rooms (1 teaching and 1 community) into a Sixth Form centre. This will be a base from which Sixth Form learners will study, with further capacity for expansion in future years. Teaching will, in the main, take place in the existing specialist classrooms many of which have been adapted to suit smaller class sizes during intervention lessons. Through modification and re-organisation of spaces in the existing building, it is anticipated that the Academy will enhance its provision for all our learners (addition of an ICT suite) and create opportunities for community partners (cyber café/evening study courses). The creation of a Sixth Form centre within the Academy will also benefit and lead to strengthened links with other local providers and businesses through partnership working (we currently hold the gold award for partnership working within the 14-19 partnership). The objectives that we intend to achieve through the addition of the Sixth Form are set out later in this proposal.

## Academy Capacity

A few years ago the Academy had 1450 learners aged 11-16. At present (Dec 2011), we have 1055 learners on roll aged 11-16 thus demonstrating the available capacity for housing the intended Sixth Form numbers. Following the intended Sixth Form alteration the capacity will increase to 1380, this is due to the current figure of 1175 learners 11 - 16 reducing by 95 and the addition of 300 in the Sixth Form. Year 12 entry is planned to commence in September 2013 with Year 13 entry from September 2014. We plan to admit the following numbers of learners:

September 2012		September 2013		September 2014	
Year 7	210	Year 7	210	Year 7	210
Year 12	0	Year 12	150	Year 12	150
Year 13	0	Year 13	0	Year 13	150

As an Academy we are our own admissions authority. Admission arrangements for Sixth Form learners will adhere to statutory regulations.

## Objectives

- To provide outstanding post 16 education at Houghton Kepier Sports College that meets the needs of a diverse range of learners of varying abilities and talents.
- To provide high quality provision for those who wish to follow courses of a traditional academic nature, with a relentless focus on literacy, numeracy, languages and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects.
- To reduce the percentage of learners falling into the NEET (not in education, employment or training) classification through links developed with employment and training partners in the local community.
- To expand the current supportive network available to outstanding sports performers via our sports specialism leading to enhanced post 18 career opportunities.
- To meet the overwhelming demand from our learners which is supported by parents/carers to continue their education post 16 within the environment of their local school in a cost effective provision.
- To raise learner aspirations, post 16 participation rates and attainment within our local community by providing continuity of provision enabling greater numbers of learners to continue into further and higher education (FE/HE).
- To provide outstanding pastoral support post 16 to inspire learners to progress through the education framework and achieve their potential.
- To ensure 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.
- To provide a hub for other local community learners to continue their education.

## **Consultation**

Extensive consultation has already taken place with the main stakeholders of the Academy. This is now being followed by further consultation with:

- Learners currently on the role
- Parents of current learners on role
- Parents of learners attending HKSC from September 2012
- Staff currently employed, both teaching and non-teaching
- Members of the governing body
- YPLA
- 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
- Connexions
- Local groups and users of Academy facilities including nursery and child care providers, local businesses, sports and leisure groups
- The Schools Network
- Youth Sports Trust
- Adjoining Local Education Authorities, South Tyneside, Gateshead, Durham

This process will run from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 to Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

There will also be meetings for appropriate stakeholders.

This consultation pack will be available on the Academy's website and at the Academy's reception. Notice of the consultation will be posted in Houghton library and post office.

## **Project costs**

The Academy has undertaken an initial feasibility study to investigate how the proposed Sixth Form provision would fit into the current site. Within this we have considered costings for planning, refurbishment of classrooms, fitting/furnishings and ICT infrastructure. We have also used our relatively recent experience of fitting out various classrooms with new furnishings and ICT equipment (computers, whiteboards, and projectors) to establish the associated costs for set up and running of the Sixth Form. Clearly, at this early stage, we have been as precise as initial planning allows. However, based upon the information at hand, we are estimating a total maximum cost of £450,000 including appropriate staffing costs.

## **Rationale and Aims**

Houghton Kepier Sports College aims to expand the range of educational and training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the local area by offering on-site post 16 education. We intend to improve the education and training of learners by providing first-class provision. We will increase participation in education or training post 16 in line with government 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 the extensive Coalfields area of the City of Sunderland where there is currently no existing post 16 provision. It will provide an alternative to the existing model of school Sixth Form provision located 6 miles away in the neighbouring LA (Durham). It will also provide an alternative to the tertiary provision at the City of Sunderland College, located 5 miles away in the centre of the City. The travel costs (approximately £30 per week) associated with this are substantial for many of the families living in Houghton Le Spring and the surrounding villages, with no discount available for students. Having post 16 educational options on site will contribute to raising the standards of provision available to those in our area and thus positively impacting on aspirations.

We will use our highly qualified staff and our Academy partners to lead learner achievement post 16 and provide a more diverse, varied and relevant learning experience. Our Academy partners (Springboard – a training provider, Gentoo – a local housing provider and Durham/Sunderland universities) provide a range of vocational and academic support enabling each learner to access a personalised learning programme. They will also help to motivate our learners to raise aspirations and ensure that standards continue to rise. Partners will also help to improve access to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and encourage learners to think about their future learning. We aim to continue with our extensive Aimhigher programme and have allocated specific funding and staffing to support this initiative. This will ensure progression and also strengthen our excellent links with local universities. We will motivate and encourage learners to participate in education and training post 16 who might otherwise have opted out after KS4.

The raising of the compulsory participation age to 18 nationally by 2015 further highlights the need for Sixth Form provision in the Houghton le Spring area that will secure a solid and sustained foundation for future employability. Links with local businesses will allow learners at Houghton Kepier Sports College to continue their education whilst following a work based learning experience.

In keeping with the government's vision for building the Big Society, we believe that Houghton Kepier Sports College has a crucial role to play (in collaboration with others) in providing an alternative range of post 16 choices for learners, improving progression and raising achievement. This will

increase the participation rates, and raise the aspirations of learners and so contribute to the regeneration of the Houghton le Spring area. We obtained Academy status because we wanted to follow government guidance that states, 'we want every school to be able to shape its own character, frame its own ethos and develop its own specialism's, free of either central or local bureaucratic constraint' and our Sixth Form is integral in achieving that aim.

Our vision is for 16 -19 provision which:

- provides excellent teaching, personalised education and development in a supportive and well structured environment;
- 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.

## **Collaboration and Raising Standards**

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;

"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 four strategic priorities of the City of Sunderland's 14-19 Partnership:

- A high-quality and valued learning route for every young person that enables them to participate, achieve and progress.
- The right support that integrates all services for Sunderland's young people so that they can make the most of their opportunities and choices.
- Stronger local partnerships and consortia arrangements.
- Establishing the right delivery arrangements at local and regional levels.

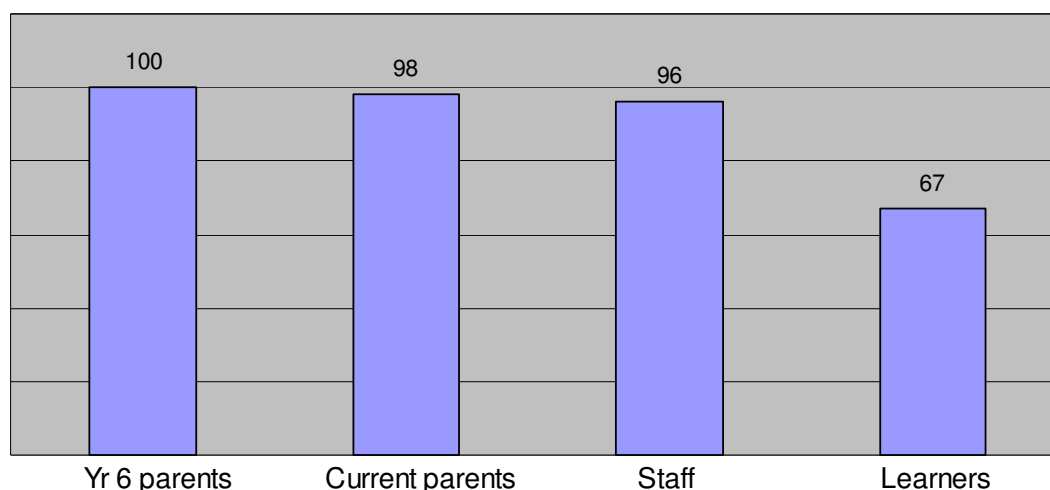
Houghton Kepier Sports College has contributed to the achievement levels in Sunderland by exceeding the 2020 target of 90% of young people achieving 5 A\*-C GCSE's or equivalent. The Academy has for four successive years continued an upward trend in examination performance and data suggests further improvement from the current cohort of learners. The performance of our top Mathematicians and Triple Scientists at GCSE would normally only be matched in selective schools. Providing post 16 opportunities can clearly benefit these young people in the future. Our focus on traditional academic courses will enable more learners from disadvantaged backgrounds to have the opportunity to progress to the top universities, and to meet the demand for the subjects which have been identified as key to the needs of businesses in the North East.

Our intention is to contribute to all Sunderland learners gaining Level 3 qualifications by providing challenging successful post 16 programmes of study. Houghton Kepier Sports College is recognised (RAISEonline 2011 Summary Report) as an establishment that adds significant value to all of its learners and with continued post 16 provision this will continue. To raise aspiration and standards for our learners is a key priority at the Academy, particularly when the catchment area we serve has only 10% which is half of the national average for adults in higher education. Our 11-19 provision will encourage learners to continue in life long education. It will encourage and facilitate an ethos of 'can do' rather than 'could not'.

## Need or demand for additional places

We have used questionnaires with parents (including those from year 6 feeder schools), learners and staff to establish the demand for Sixth Form provision on site.

### Survey results showing percentages of people supporting a Sixth Form at Houghton Kepier Sports College



This highlights the overwhelming demand for Sixth Form provision in the Houghton Le Spring area. In addition, we also conducted an analysis of the destinations of Year 11 leavers. An analysis of this data for 2009, 2010 and 2011 indicates that 80% of our learners remain in education following further education courses.

In addition, there is currently no non-faith school Sixth Form provision in Sunderland, which results in our learners seeking this provision elsewhere. Our learners are currently denied the opportunity to continue their education Post-16 in a school environment due to the over subscription to and admissions procedures in local faith schools. At present a large number of these learners leave the local area and authority to seek an appropriate post 16 course. Currently year 11 learners travel to Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Durham (neighbouring local authorities) to find appropriate destinations which meet their needs. Those learners who stay within Sunderland LA have to attend the tertiary system and although the standard of provision is high it does not always meet the needs of our learners.

To meet the needs of 50% of our learners, who fall into the category of most deprived households in the country following the abolition of EMA (Educational Maintenance Allowance), the need for localised post 16 education is paramount. We also believe that Houghton Kepier Sports College has a crucial role to play in collaboration with other schools and the City of Sunderland College in providing a variety of post-16 choices for learners in the wider area, improving progression and raising achievement.