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26th March 2018

Hi,

Please don't forget that the deadline for completing the **Hadrian Learning Trust consultation is 3.30pm this Thursday, 29 March.**

The deadline for **Northumberland County Council's consultation is Midnight on Monday 9 April.**

Whatever your views are, please take the time to send your response in. If you simply want to say 'Yes / No / Don't know' it will only take about 30 seconds to fill in each consultation form (I promise!). That's just one minute of your time to make your views clear. It would be great if everyone could make the effort. We could generate around 100 responses or more from Broomhaugh and that would be a fantastic statement of how much education and our children's futures matter to our community.

It may be tempting to think that nothing we say will change anything, but what we know for certain is that if we don't express a view (whatever that may be) our silence will be taken as agreement.

Remember that all parents can submit a response on their own and that grandparents, carers and anyone else can also submit a response.

LINKS TO RESPONSE FORM

The link to the response forms can be found here:

- HLT: <http://www.gehs.net/index.php/consultation>
- NCC: https://form.northumberland.gov.uk/form/launch/con_res_sch_hx_hb

GOVERNING BODY VIEWS

For your information and to make our position clear, Governors will be submitting a response to HLT this week and NCC next week. We have drafted the HLT response and are now working on writing the formal NCC response.

- **HLT:** We have voted to say 'No' to the first question (move to two tier) and 'Don't know' to the second question (expanding the school to take in children from Haydon Bridge).
- **NCC:** We have voted to say 'No' to all three models outlined, in large part due to the lack of evidence provided by the Council to date as to how any of the three models would address the issues outlined, our lack of belief that any represent a 'unique and innovative approach' and our concerns on the implications for education and the wider communities which all our amazing schools serve.

SPECIFIC VIEWS ON HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST CONSULTATION

At this stage we do not support the HLT proposal to move to creating a single secondary school because (in brief summary):

- We are open in our support for the three-tier system as providing excellent educational outcomes, consistently above regional and national averages



- We recognise that there are challenges facing education and that some change may be necessary, but not in the way currently proposed
- We do not believe the HLT document makes a strong enough case for the educational benefits across the whole partnership
- There are too many questions left unanswered and very unclear by the current document
- We do not believe HLT has worked collaboratively and constructively with all other schools to develop options (as it is required to do according to Department for Education guidelines on making significant changes to an academy, specifically where it relates to changing from three to two tier)
- Northumberland Council is currently proposing two models that do not impose two-tier across the whole system, as well as asking for additional alternatives, and we believe all options should be explored carefully and with the appropriate time and investment before any final solution is implemented

At this stage we have answered 'Don't Know' to the proposal to absorb pupils from Haydon Bridge because (in brief summary):

- As Governors we cannot in all conscience state that, if Haydon Bridge High School were to close, children should not be offered the chance to be educated in Hexham
- We are very clear that our priority is to see provision continued in Haydon Bridge and by agreeing now with this principle we risk effectively closing off further discussions to this end
- No decision has been made about Haydon Bridge High School and yet and this seems to be jumping the gun – if that decision is taken then it becomes the appropriate time to have a proper discussion
- The wording of the HLT proposal is very ambiguous – we are not clear why they refer to children from the 'Haydon Bridge Partnership' and not 'Haydon Bridge High School'
- Equally, there is no reference made to whether this would be used as a lever to force through a move to two-tier and expanding the age range without a proper debate
- We have major concerns, unanswered by the document, about the impact of creating such a large school in Hexham within a primarily rural catchment – from practicalities such as class sizes, transport etc as well as considerations around mental, emotional wellbeing and, of course, quality of educational outcomes

I hope that helps, there is plenty of information in circulation if you're still undecided on your views.

Thanks to all of you who've engaged in the process so far and thanks in advance to everyone for taking just a few moments to join in and put your views forward.

If you have any questions please send them through to school and we'll do our best as always to answer them.

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