

Whitburn C of E Academy Sixth Form Proposal June 2011



Consultation Pack

Whitburn Church of England Academy
Whitburn
Sunderland
SR6 7EF

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 and Objections

Comments or objections should be sent to:
Reverend Ken Smith (Chair of Governors)
Whitburn Church of England Academy
Whitburn
Sunderland
SR6 7EF

Alteration description

The proposal is to expand our provision from 11 - 16 to 11 - 18 through the addition of a Sixth Form. Although this will require a small addition to the existing building our vision is to have a Sixth Form at the heart of our Academy with our Sixth Form pupils being taught throughout the school and providing aspirational role models for our younger pupils. Therefore, rooms created for the Sixth Form building will also be utilised by other year groups and that Sixth Form teaching will also take place in the existing specialist rooms e.g. in Technology, Art and Music. The objectives that we intend to achieve through the addition of a Sixth Form are set out later in this document.

The Sixth Form will utilise the existing school building which is only two years old but this will need to be augmented to accommodate additional pupils and to provide specialist post 16 teaching areas. Three design proposals have been prepared by the Silvester Ashton Partnership, the architects responsible for the design of the current building.

The preferred option, chosen on the basis of functionality, cost effectiveness and aesthetic impact on the local area, is Scheme B (see attached plan and section).

The additional building would create teaching spaces above and adjacent to the changing rooms of the current building, as well as a social/study area. Through modification and re-organisation of spaces in the existing building, additional laboratory space would also be created in the current science/technology area. This would involve redeployment of some ICT facilities but would allow existing services to be utilised thereby saving money and minimising disruption.

No new or additional site will be required. The new build will be contained within the site of the current school building.

Academy capacity

The current capacity of the school is 975. At present (June 2010) we have 964 pupils on roll 11 – 16. This will rise to 975 in light of the increase made in our PAN from 180 to 195 in 2009 when we moved into our new building.

Following alteration the capacity will be 1255, retaining the current figure of 975 pupils 11 -16 and with 280 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 pupils:

| September 2012: | September 2013 | September 2014 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Year 7 195 | 195 | 195 |
| Year 12 0 | 140 | 140 |
| Year 13 0 | 0 | 140 |

Objectives

The main objectives of the proposal are:

- To provide outstanding post-16 education of a traditional academic nature, with a relentless focus on literacy, numeracy, languages and the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) subjects within the context of an Anglican Academy.
- To raise aspirations, post-16 participation rates and attainment at Level 3 within our local community by providing continuity of our outstanding 11-16 provision; our 2009 Section 5 OFSTED inspection graded us as Outstanding in every single category.
- To fulfil the overwhelming demand from our pupils which is supported by parent/carers to continue their education post-16 with the environment of their local school in a cost-effective provision.
- To increase local diversity and to improve the range of quality and choice of provision for pupils wishing to remain in South Tyneside post-16; this in turn will help reduce the flow of pupils to neighbouring authorities as part of the strategy agreed by South Tyneside Post-16 Learning Collaborative. We intend to meet local sustainable demand and are confident that our proposal would not have a significant negative impact on the existing Sixth Form provision in South Tyneside but instead would enhance this provision.
- To work in partnership with existing local Sixth Form providers (South Tyneside College, Harton Technology College and St Joseph's RC School) and the other secondary schools as part of the South Tyneside 'family of schools' and as an integral part of the South Tyneside Post-16 Learning Collaborative's vision to transform provision across the borough.
- To increase participation and, as a specialist Maths and Computing Academy, to raise standards in the STEM subjects at Level 3, addressing a need from employers, businesses and HE establishments both locally and nationally and, in so doing, to provide a clear progression route to Level 4 qualifications. We are located in Whitburn and Mardsen Ward where only 14.6% over adults have a higher education qualification compared to the English average of 19.9% (*Census 2001/Raiseonline 2010 Data*).
- To contribute to South Tyneside Council's vision of economic regeneration and growth through increased post-16 participation and outstanding results.
- To take up the presumption of expansion for successful and popular schools.
- As a Church of England Academy to provide the opportunity for our pupils to continue their *education post-16 in an Anglican context*. Currently there is no Anglican post-16 provision in South Tyneside or its neighbouring local authorities.

Consultation/Publication/Representation

Extensive consultation has taken place over a period of months and this has been followed by the publication of a Reorganisation Proposal in the local newspaper and posted at the entrance to the Academy on 20th June 2011. As well as publicising the notice, letters and copies of the Notice were sent to appropriate recipients; these included parents and carers, staff, the Diocese of Durham, Whitburn Parish Council (?), South Tyneside Local Authority and neighbouring authorities, secondary headteachers from neighbouring schools, South Tyneside College, trade unions, governors, parents/carers/staff of main feeder primary schools and local elected Members of Parliament.

The proposer offered representation from the public and interested parties consulted during the four week period from 20th June to 17th July.

This consultation pack was prepared and published on the Academy's website and spare copies were made available at the Academy's Reception for collection by interested parties. Availability was advertised at the public meeting and also through the publication of notices on the Academy website and in the local newspaper. .

Project costs

The Academy has commissioned an initial feasibility report to investigate how the building would fit onto the current site. Scheme B the preferred Option has been used as a basis to make an approximate costing which includes planning, construction, refurbishment of science labs, fitting/furnishings, ICT infrastructure, temporary PE changing accommodation and traffic works associated with the new build as identified by the Road Traffic Survey.

We have also used our relatively recent experience of fitting out a new building with furnishings and ICT (computers, whiteboards, projectors, registration units) to estimate the associated costs for the Sixth Form.

Clearly, at this early stage, it is not possible to be precise about costing. However, based upon the information at hand, we are estimating a total maximum cost of £3.5 million.

We wish to make the case with the YPLA & DfE for capital funding for the new build required. However in the event of this not being forthcoming we request that our expansion plans be approved subject to the Academy raising the capital required itself, as we will pursue all possible means to secure this.

Changes to sixth form provision

The proposal will alter the upper age limits of the school thereby allowing us to meet the compelling evidence of demand from our parents (98% are in support of our proposal), our pupils and community to provide outstanding post-16 education. We have been graded by OFSTED as 'Outstanding' in consecutive Section 5 Inspections (2005 and 2009) and additionally we have been deemed 'Outstanding' in Learning Outside the Classroom (2008) and ICT (2010) in OFSTED thematic inspections. We were awarded HPSS status in Spring 2010.

The addition of a sixth form will raise local participation rates and attainment in the context of an Anglican Academy with a supportive but challenging ethos. We will provide outstanding post-16 education of a traditional academic nature with a relentless focus on literacy, numeracy, languages and the STEM subjects.

The provision will form part of a wider post-16 strategy supported by the South Tyneside Post-16 Learning Collaborative where we will work in partnership with other schools and South Tyneside College to augment and improve current provision.

It is the intention for our Sixth Form curriculum to focus on traditional 'A' level courses, particularly in the STEM subjects. These subjects provide a knowledge and skills base deemed crucial to the future economic success of the North East Region. There is a projected shortfall in provision at Level 3 and above which we plan, in collaboration with others, to redress. As part of our developing strategic partnership with South Tyneside College we will work to pioneer new training and employment opportunities such as higher level apprenticeships as an alternative to university for those pupils who may not choose the purely academic route. We will also work to develop and extend our existing partnerships with local businesses such as SAGE and local universities in order to meet their demands for high quality delivery of STEM subjects at Level 3. We are currently working in collaboration with SAGE on developing their software for both administrative and educational purposes in schools.

We have the support of our constituency MP, Rt Hon David Miliband, and of Stephen Hepburn, MP for Jarrow.

As previously stated, we will work in partnership with other local providers as part of the South Tyneside 'family of schools' and as an integral part of the South Tyneside Post-16 Learning Collaborative vision to transform provision across the borough. The purpose of this is to raise participation rates at Level 3 through increasing the quality and choice of provision for pupils wishing to remain in South Tyneside post-16 by meeting a clear local need. In terms of achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19, the figure for South Tyneside was 41.7%, which is significantly lower than the North East figure of 44.1% and the figure of 49.% for England as a whole (*Source data4nr website most recently available figures 2008/2009*).

Collaboration and Raising Standards

The South Tyneside Post-16 Learning Collaborative was formed in order to secure an enhanced local post-16 provision by September 2015 in light of the very large number of pupils (35% in 2010) who currently leave South Tyneside for post-16 provision. The Collaborative comprises the Headteachers from all secondary schools, the Principal of South Tyneside College and representatives from South Tyneside Council and has been working towards securing a strategic plan which will meet the needs of South Tyneside learners post-16.

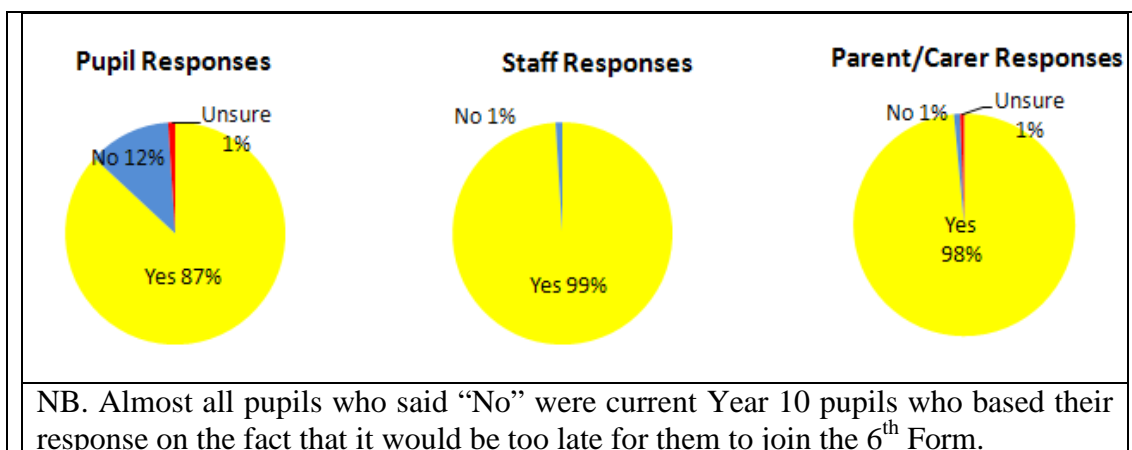
The collaborative continues to work towards a final plan but there is a broad consensus of support for Whitburn's aspiration to open its own Sixth Form and to work in collaboration with the other schools and South Tyneside College in order to secure the most appropriate provision for pupils and best value in terms of staffing and resources.

In addition, there is currently no Church of England Sixth Form provision in South Tyneside or its neighbouring local authorities and, therefore, our pupils are currently denied the opportunity to continue their education post-16 in an Anglican context.

As part of our consultation process in seeking Academy status we canvassed the view of our pupils, parent/carers and staff on whether we should seek to expand our provision post-16. The results were overwhelmingly in favour of opening a Sixth Form, as shown below.

We conduct exit interviews with all Year 11 pupils during their final term at Whitburn. In addition, we also conduct a detailed analysis of the destinations of Year 11 leavers. An analysis of this data for 2009 and 2010 indicates that up to 70% of our pupils would wish to remain each year to take 'A' Level courses at Whitburn, largely in English, maths, the sciences and modern languages. These subjects would form our core provision, based both on learner demand and on our outstanding track record of delivery and attainment at GCSE. At present the overwhelming majority of these pupils leave South Tyneside to continue their education after Year 11, travelling as far as Durham and Gosforth (Newcastle) to find appropriate destinations which meet their needs. There is a clear demand from the overwhelming majority of our learners to have the opportunity to remain in their local school to study after the age of 16; with the abolition of EMA (Educational Maintenance Allowance) and the raising of the leaving age to 18 this demand will continue to increase.

| Q. Would you be in support of a 6th Form at Whitburn? | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | % Yes | % Unsure | % No |
| Pupils | 87 | 1 | 12 |
| Staff | 99 | 0 | 1 |
| Parent/Carers | 98 | 1 | 1 |



Continuity from pre-16 to post-16 provision will allow us to improve the quality of IAG (Information, Advice Guidance about making informed choices about learning) to pupils, supporting them to make informed decisions regarding their progression. We have already acted in light of the down-sizing of the Connexions Service and the Aim Higher Programme and appointed our own Careers Co-ordinator to improve the quality of our provision. A significant part of this role will be to implement a range of strategies to raise the goals and aspirations of pupils in an area which has traditionally had much lower than average participation at both Level 3 and Level 4/5.

We intend to raise pupil aspirations to apply to Cambridge, Oxford, Russell Group and 1994 Group Universities: for example, we would include specific reference in our A level options advice to the subjects identified by the Russell Group as ‘facilitating subjects’ for degree courses. In the most recent data available, 2008-2009, only 1% of undergraduates from South Tyneside District studied at Durham University which is approximately 18 miles away. This is in spite of a preference for studying at north east universities with 32% attending Sunderland and 34% attending Northumbria (*Source Sunderland University Recruitment Department*). We intend to capitalise on our existing links with Durham University, in particular the Science Centre, to encourage many more pupils to apply to Durham.

Again our Careers Co-ordinator will play a lead role in working with Senior Management to develop our links with top universities in order to raise the aspirations of our pupils whilst also working closely with South Tyneside College to support their delivery of non-academic routes into training and apprenticeships.

Our OFSTED inspection reports and GCSE exam results demonstrate our ability to deliver an outstanding education for 11-16 pupils. We believe that we can transfer our outstanding ethos and delivery to a post-16 context. Our relentless focus on numeracy and literacy has meant that we have consistently had the best 5A*-C GCSE results (including English and Maths) in the local authority since this indicator was established. We have also had consistently high figures for both CVA and VA which have been achieved by teaching GCSE subjects only and are not reliant on GCSE equivalent qualifications. Our KS2 non-contextualised value added KS2 to 4 has been at the 6th or 7th percentile rank for the last 3 years, demonstrating consistent quality of provision and achievement (*Source Raiseonline 2010*). In 2010, all Year 11 pupils gained at least 10 GCSE passes with 74% of pupils attaining 5A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths and 76% gaining two or more GCSE science grades at C or above. In addition our MFL results were 6% above the national average in 2010;

a figure all the more remarkable given that the vast majority of grades are achieved in Year 9 through our early entry GCSE course and not in Year 11.

We have a consistent track record of significantly positive pupil attainment and progress over a number of years with our 5A* - C with English and Maths figure being consistently 20% higher than English and local averages; this is achieved with cohorts of pupils who are in broadly line with the national average at KS2.

Need or demand for additional places

Currently, a very substantial proportion of learners (35% in 2010) leave South Tyneside to continue their education post-16. The vast majority of Whitburn Year 11 pupils leave to study outside the LA and our data indicates that in 2011 this figure will be over 80% of pupils. Our exit interview analysis indicate that this migration is due to the following factors:

1. Desire to continue their education in a traditional Sixth Form setting.
2. Wish to continue their education in a faith school and enrol in Roman Catholic Sixth Forms in the absence of their preferred option of a Church of England Sixth Form. There is a clear demand from pupils and parents for continuity of an Anglican education post-16.
3. Desire to continue their experience of outstanding teaching and learning.
4. Lack of diversity of post-16 choice in South Tyneside.

With the ending of EMA and the raising of the Participation Age to 18 by 2015 the imperative to provide outstanding Sixth Form provision within South Tyneside can only increase. We believe that Whitburn Church of England Academy has a crucial role to play in collaboration with other schools and South Tyneside College in providing a greater range of post-16 choices for learners, improving progression and raising achievement. This will increase the participation rates, raise aspirations of pupils, contribute to the economic regeneration of South Tyneside and make the LA more attractive for inward investment.

Our focus on traditional academic courses will enable more pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to have the opportunity to progress to 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 ability to ensure that all pupils achieve well, regardless of their background is demonstrated by our consistently high CVA.

We are currently heavily oversubscribed in terms of applications for places in Year 7; in 2011 we had 462 applications for 195 places, further evidence that we are a popular and successful school. In addition our evidence demonstrates that there is a clear local demand for continuity in education post-16.

In Spring 2010 we were awarded High Performing Specialist School status and had (planned?) hoped to secure Sixth Form presumption through this route. However, the HPSS programme was cut in May 2010 and this has meant that we have been unable to pursue this avenue.

We believe that our record of providing a consistently outstanding but very cost effective education pre-16 will allow us to develop an outstanding Sixth Form. We

have very significant Sixth Form experience in the Senior Leadership Team, including staff who fulfilled the role of Head of Sixth Form in previous posts.

In addition, appointing staff with ability to teach KS5 courses has been part of our teacher recruitment policy for some time as we have planned to put the capacity in place to meet the overwhelming demand for our Sixth Form. We have already been involved in delivering aspects of A level teaching in mathematics and science, for example, as a means of further challenging our most able pupils and developing staff expertise.

Expansion of successful and popular schools

The Governing Body considers that this presumption applies, based on the evidence presented in this bid and in particular:

- Overwhelming demand established from pupils and parent/carers
- We are heavily oversubscribed pre-16 and have been for many years. The opening of our new school building in 2009 allowed us to implement a rolling programme of increasing our PAN from 180 to 195 in each year. However demand for Year 7 places has continued to grow:

| Year | Applications for Y7 Places | Y7 Places Available |
|------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 2011 | 458 | 195 |
| 2010 | 443 | 195 |
| 2009 | 425 | 195 |
| 2008 | 409 | 180 |

- Consistent evidence, through OFTSED reports , of outstanding provision
- Consistently outstanding GCSE results and CVA