



Ponteland Community Middle School, Callerton Lane, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9EY
T: (01661) 824853 F: (01661) 860020 E: admin@ponteland.academy
Part of Ponteland Academy Trust, Company No 10314306 www.ponteland.academy

Headteacher: Dr CA Pryer DL EdD MEd NPQH DipEd
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs EJ Cafferty BEd NPQH

Thursday 20 December 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and all Stakeholders

The Future Direction of Ponteland Community Middle School, part of Ponteland Academy Trust

Ponteland Community Middle School is pleased to announce a proposal to change the age range from Middle (9-13 Years 5-8) to a Primary (Nursery to Year 6) setting and a proposed variation to Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN) from 150 in each year group to 60 or 90 children in a new primary setting.

PCMS is a highly successful teaching school with excellent facilities and superb ethos. Trustees, staff, parents and children sustain exceptional standards and together ensure that every child benefits from a wide variety of opportunities. Ranked 25th in the Sunday Times top performing primary schools, PCMS Trustees, senior leaders and staff believe we can transfer this successful model to full Primary and provide the same standards and commitment to children and their families as a Nursery to Year 6 primary school.

PCMS is committed to the local community and keen to ensure a cohesive pathway for all children within the two tier system in Ponteland. We propose converting to primary and joining a Multi Academy Trust providing a transitional pathway and community cohesion. We will continue to develop our teaching school alliance as has been the case for the past four years.

We have witnessed great change within education, with other local schools becoming two tier and forming Pele Trust. As Ponteland Academy, a separate academy, we are outside Local Authority control, and so it is incumbent upon the Trustees to determine where they believe the future of the school lies to best serve its community. We have explored all options open to us to secure the school's future; ensure the school will continue to thrive and flourish; and be part of the community for future generations.

We have arrived at the decision, in consultation with the DfE, that it is in the best interests of all stakeholders that the proposal of age range change to a primary is considered. In pursuit of excellence for pupils, the school and our community, we are consulting to change the age range and pupil admission numbers. We believe we can extend our outstanding provision from Nursery to Year 6.

The longer consultation document that outlines the reasons and benefits of the proposals can be found on our website on our home page (www.ponteland.academy). A hard copy is available from the school office. We welcome your thoughts and opinions and will consider all comments.

We are consulting on two points: one, to change to a primary school; and two, to reduce our pupil admission number [PAN]. We have considered 2 Form Entry [60 children] and 3 Form Entry [90 children] in each new year group and ask you for your preference so we can provide a solution which is viable, sustainable, feasible and with less contention.

Responses to the age range change proposal can be made under question 1 on the return pro forma on the school website or on hard copy. Your comments are important.

Responses to the admission arrangements can be made under question 2 on the return pro forma on the school website or on hard copy. Again your comments are valuable.

You are invited to email your pro forma to admin@ponteland.academy or return your response to school in the PCMS Consultation box at the front of school.

We shall advertise the consultation in PontNews and Views, PCMS website, PCMS Facebook, Parentmail and hard copy sent via the PCMS pupils.

You are invited to join us at our consultation evening 6-7.30pm, Monday 14 January 2019. In addition, our door is always open for a further conversation. In addition to the consultation evening, staff will attend various briefings and meetings and children and families will receive information about their school.

The consultation process for both the proposed change to become a primary school and the process for Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN) will run from **Thursday 20 December 2018 until 12.00 noon Thursday 31 January 2019.**

Please note that all responses must be submitted no later than noon on the last day. Responses will be analysed to produce a consultation report for a Trustees' meeting where they will decide whether or not to make a submission to the DfE and Secretary of State. The report will be published on the school website following Trustee approval.

We are excited about the proposed changes as, if agreed, they would provide the opportunity to be able to continue to deliver exceptional educational provision. Ofsted have commented that we are 'a school where children thrive'. We have shown this over many years and our ambition is to secure that legacy as a primary school.

Yours sincerely

Dr Caroline Pryer, Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Knight, Chair of Trustees