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26 March 2019

Dear Parents,

Future of Ponteland Community Middle School

As you will all be aware, since the decision of Northumberland County Council in July 2016 to convert the other schools in Ponteland to a two-tier system, the Board of Trustees have been working with the Department for Education to establish the future direction of PCMS. In our letter to you all on 17th December 2018, we advised that following much discussion, we had agreed with the DfE that we should apply to convert to a Primary School. Fitting in with the two-tier system will in the long run be the most stable solution for parents and the community.

In February 2019, the school submitted an application to become a primary. Following the consultation results, and at the request of DfE, we included an assessment of the viability of a one form and a two form option. We are pleased to say the DfE have approved our application to become a one form entry primary school from September 2020. Please see the attached letter.

For the academic year starting in September 2019 we remain a middle school teaching children in years 5 – 8 and will work with the DfE securing our legacy and keeping the children at the centre of our daily practice. DfE have undertaken to work with us to manage the transition to primary.

From September 2020, the school will be open as a primary, and will have admissions for children from pre-school to year 6, based on 30 children per year group.

Trustees are grateful to parents and staff for their continued loyalty. After many months of uncertainty, we have now found the direction for the school and look forward to working with staff, parents and partners transferring the ethos, success and excellence of Ponteland Community Middle School to an effective primary model.

Yours sincerely,

Board of Trustees
Ponteland Academy Trust

Enclosure:
Letter from Regional Schools Commissioner, 22 March 2019