



Houghton Kepier Sports College

A Trust School



Dairy Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 5BH Telephone: 0191 553 6528 - Facsimile: 0191 553 6533
Email: info@houghtonkepier.org.uk - www.houghtonkepier.org.uk

Headteacher Mrs Sue Hyland MA MBA

Statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in the area:

New places would be aimed at learners already attending Houghton Kepier Sports College (HKSC) and the admission policy would reflect this. There is currently no post 16 provision in the Houghton Le Spring area.

The Local Authority and 14-19 Partnership consider the 'Sunderland Model' suitable for the entire region; geographically HKSC is on the outskirts of the city and this impacts on accessibility.

The Governing Body of HKSC strongly feels the 'one size fits all' approach of the 'Sunderland Model' and the monopoly of provision from City of Sunderland College does not promote diversity in the local area.

Local collaboration in drawing up the proposals:

Houghton Kepier Sports College proposals to provide sixth form education originally started with Hetton School in 2006. The aim was for both schools to work collaboratively to provide sixth form education on both school sites. At the point of public consultation the Local Authority expressed a desire to join the negotiations along with City of Sunderland College; Houghton Kepier Governors did explore the idea of collaborative working but remained convinced that provision on site at Hetton and Houghton would be the best option for the learners in our area. This collaboration ceased when the Local Authority made it clear that an alternative to the 'Sunderland Model' was not negotiable.

The Governing Body at Houghton Kepier Sports College have made a great effort to work in partnership with relevant parties but have been very disappointed that the Local Authority and the 14-19 Partnership have not been willing to discuss and consider school based sixth form as a viable option to meet local needs.

Paragraph 4.48 of the guidance document; Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School or Adding a Sixth Form states: 'If a school has acted in a collaborative way and has actively attempted to engage other partners in the local area, but it is clear that other institutions have declined to participate, that fact should not be a reason for declining to approve a proposal.' We appreciate this is in relation to schools with a 'presumption for sixth form' but strongly feel this should be taken into consideration.

In drawing up the consultation and proposal documentation HKSC have worked in collaboration with Trust Partners, including Gentoo, Sunderland and Durham Universities and Springboard (a local work based provider). Indeed Springboard have been involved and supportive of this proposal since the initial discussions with Hetton School.

HKSC are active in collaboration across the city within the 'hubs and spokes' model. One of our Assistant Headteachers is the Chair of the cluster group of schools we work with and actively encourage collaboration; not always easy due to the geographical locations of these schools (Monkwearmouth, Castle View and Redhouse Academy).





Dairy Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 5BH Telephone: 0191 553 6528 - Facsimile: 0191 553 6533
Email: info@houghtonkepier.org.uk - www.houghtonkepier.org.uk

Headteacher Mrs Sue Hyland MA MBA

We actively engage with the 14-19 Partnership; learners are provided with opportunities to access a range of courses provided at the Skills Centres. Working with the Diploma Development Group for Sports & Active Leisure; HKSC have offered to host the level 3 diploma.

As a specialist sports college we work collaboratively with Sports Leaders UK, the Football Association (FA), English Table Tennis Association (ETTA), D of E and our Trust Partner, the Rugby Football Union (RFU), to provide access to a range of qualifications, providing opportunities within sport which are not necessarily an academic progression route. At HKSC we work along side national sport governing bodies to run coaching awards at levels 1, 2 and 3.

We have achieved the Silver 14-19 Quality Mark in conjunction with Nexus Consulting and Sunderland Partnership which evidences information, advice and guidance (IAG), quality assurance and effective collaborative practice. We are due to be assessed for the Gold 14-19 Quality Mark on 3rd December 2009.

Ofsted 2009 quotes: 'The collaborative work of the school and its students is outstanding, and benefits partner schools and the wider community.'

Proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school

HKSC can evidence standards of teaching through the records of lesson observations as attached. Teaching staff are observed regularly outside of the statutory performance management requirements. (Appendix 1)

In terms of progression; we would utilise the very supportive and successful pastoral system to encourage progression. We employ a Progression Coach to support learners in planning for their future and hold a comprehensive range of Aimhigher activities, (appendix 2). We are working with both Sunderland and Durham Universities to give our learners every opportunity possible. Connexions also play an important part in supporting learners in terms of future pathways. As a Trust Partner the Gentoo Group are also supportive in terms of progression and we are actively pursuing ways of working collaboratively with them in our local area.

During the consultation period there were 223 response forms returned from parents with 220 supporting the proposal. Only 1 response indicated they were not supportive. An overwhelming theme of the parental response was that of continuity of education.

Consultation Feedback Document Page 8

Q3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

213 parents agreed, 3 did not agree and 5 were undecided.





Comments included:

Yes, continuity of education in the same location is recognised a key contributing factor in the decision making process for learners and their parents/carers in their choice to remain in education.

I also think it will mean more learners will be less likely to drop out.

If pupils can stay with friends and do not have far to travel could encourage them to stay on in education.

I agree with the school environment for sixth form.

I believe this will encourage learners to stay in education, particularly those who would be put off by the expense of travelling to Sunderland or Durham and those who would find a change of institution intimidating. I also believe this will encourage learners to complete courses and reduce the chances of dropping out.

We live in a disadvantaged community of which the school is a big part. Being able to remain in the local area without travel costs will be a big issue for a lot of parents.

Ofsted 2006 quotes: 'The school has an innovative pastoral system, which is working very well; the guidance pupils receive is outstanding, and this makes them feel safe, secure and valued.'

Ofsted 2009 quotes: 'The school provides good care, guidance and support. Staff have a strong commitment to ensuring the care and welfare of students and this contributes to the good progress made by all groups.'

How we achieve higher standards and better progression has been addressed to some degree as part of the consultation and proposal documents; several excerpts are reproduced below:

Consultation Document Page 5

Standards

1. The HKSC proposed sixth form is aimed at boosting standards by increasing local opportunities for young people. The crying need to raise aspiration in the local area is well documented and is one of the key reasons for the stakeholders to support the consultation.
2. The HKSC proposed sixth form will match pupils' needs and wishes and will be a response to parents' and learners' wishes, as expressed in unsolicited comments during earlier consultation. The response to this consultation will inform any Proposal.
3. The HKSC proposed sixth form plans to raise standards across the whole cohort of learners in the Houghton Area.
4. The HKSC proposed sixth form will raise local standards by filling a significant gap in provision.



Dairy Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 5BH Telephone: 0191 553 6528 - Facsimile: 0191 553 6533
Email: info@houghtonkepier.org.uk - www.houghtonkepier.org.uk

Headteacher Mrs Sue Hyland MA MBA

5. The HKSC proposed sixth form will lead to improved attainment for children and young people. Post-16 potential learners from deprived backgrounds perceive an added cost in travelling significant distances to attend courses, are unable or unwilling to pay the increased costs and therefore do not enrol. By attracting these groups, the HKSC proposed sixth form will help to narrow the attainment gap.
6. Since local provision may displace some learners from existing providers, it is important to note the guidance at Para 4.30 of the Decision Makers' Guidance that it is for the Local Authority to manage any such displacement. However, the HKSC proposed sixth form meets the statutory SEN improvement test in that:
 - it takes account of the preferences of the parents of our existing SEN pupils to be given continuity as they can make a smooth transition to post-16 in a familiar environment in which they can continue to access the support to which they are accustomed
 - it offers a range of courses which respond to the needs of individual young people
7. The HKSC proposed sixth form will enable young people with special needs to have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and to participate in their school and community, which some are unable or unwilling to do at a distance, but which will now be provided locally.

Consultation Document Page 10

We aim to build on the excellent reputation of Houghton Kepier Sports College and to further develop and enhance its 14-19 provision to improve the educational opportunities for learners. Learners will be able to continue their education locally, enjoying all the benefits of Houghton Kepier Sports College and continue their education with staff and in surroundings they know.

For learners we will:

- Continue our outstanding pastoral system which focuses around you as an individual
- Ensure everyone has a personal tutor who will provide a focal point of care, support and guidance
- Ensure high quality and personalised pathways to maximise achievement and progression for all young people
- Provide curriculum continuity across 14 - 19 pathways with no artificial break at 16
- Provide excellent teaching and learning in a supportive environment in small teaching groups
- Increase participation in education, employment and training
- Provide personal help with applications to university and employment



Houghton Kepier Sports College

A Trust School



Dairy Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 5BH Telephone: 0191 553 6528 - Facsimile: 0191 553 6533
Email: info@houghtonkepier.org.uk - www.houghtonkepier.org.uk

Headteacher Mrs Sue Hyland MA MBA

- Monitor progress regularly and provide feedback
- Develop effective links with our Trust Partners, other work-based learning providers and employers to ensure high quality work related learning and experience
- Ensure high quality information, advice and guidance on progression from KS4 to KS5 from a secure knowledge base, leading to an increased course completion rate.
- Ensure that learners have access to high quality and impartial information, advice and guidance for progression post sixth form, with appropriate support
- Deliver the Aimhigher agenda on site, widening participation at KS5 and into HE
- Provide sporting opportunities within Sunderland and Durham to continue participating within a wide range of activities
- Benefit younger learners from having older learners on site
- Provide a wide choice of enrichment opportunities

