

Appendix 3a (iii)

To the Director of Children's Services
Sunderland City Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to support Houghton Kepier Sports College in its application for a sixth form facility. Given the number of children living in Houghton and the surrounding villages a sixth form college is of vital importance to the community.

I believe that my daughter and other children stand a far better chance of obtaining higher qualifications if they are able to continue their education within the school environment they have become accustomed to, with teachers they know and respect and who in turn understand the needs of their pupils. I am aware that research has been carried out on this subject which supports this argument.

An onsite sixth form is more likely to encourage pupils to remain in the education system, particularly those who may find the move to a new college a difficult experience.

Houghton Kepier School provides an excellent environment for our children to grow and learn and I'm confident that they are best placed to help my daughter achieve her A level grades and provide support to find the best university for her needs. I think having to move my daughter, at this stage in her life, to a college which will be outside her community will be disruptive to her education.

To have a local sixth form will reduce the environmental impact which results from young people having to travel to all parts of Tyne and Wear to receive the next stage of their education. It will also help to support local businesses with more young people shopping in Houghton at lunchtimes and after school.

Finally, having a sixth form facility at Houghton Kepier will encourage younger pupils to think about the long term educational future and I believe will encourage more children to remain in education, therefore improving their employment prospects.

Julie Markham