

28th November 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you of the County Council's proposals for the re-organisation of the schools within the Alnwick Partnership. The proposals will be put forward for consultation by the authority's policy board on 9th December 2014.

Unfortunately we were only given these proposals on Wednesday afternoon and were told that they must remain strictly confidential until yesterday. I apologise if you read the Gazette and found out the news before we were able to inform you first as we had wanted to do. We have been asked to relay the information below from the County Council:

"Colleagues in schools across the Alnwick Partnership meet on a regular basis to share information, good practice and ideas for improving outcomes for our children. Over the years, the topic of whether or not a different structure of school organisation would be beneficial to children in the Alnwick Partnership has come up and it was discussed again by colleagues at the partnership's recent meeting earlier this month, together with officers from the County Council. Therefore, on behalf of the community schools in the partnership, a recommendation is being made to the Council's Policy Board in December to approve consultation on a number of possible options for the organisation of schools in the Alnwick Partnership. If the consultation goes ahead, a consultation document with full details of these options would be made available to parents, staff and anyone else with an interest."

Northumberland County Council

If the consultation is signed off by the policy board on Tuesday, December 9, it would launch a 13-week period for all stakeholders to share their views on the three proposals:

Model A

The amalgamation of the Duke's and Lindisfarne Middle Schools on the Lindisfarne site from September 2015: necessitating the closure of Lindisfarne Middle School in August 31st 2015.

Model B

This would see the closure of Lindisfarne, the Duke's and Seahouses Middle Schools in August 31st 2016; the extension of the age ranges of Swansfield Park, Branton, Hipsburn, Seahouses, Shilbottle and Swarland First Schools to age 3/4 to 11 primary schools; and the extension of the age range of the Duchess's Community High School to an age 11-18 secondary school from September 2016.

Model C

No change

The full report to the policy board is available on the County Council website under the agenda for the Family and Childrens Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (4th December)

This will obviously be a very unsettling time for parents, pupils and staff and we must work together to provide the very best education for the pupils within our care. We will endeavour to keep you informed throughout the consultation and if the policy board does agree to the consultation process, we will arrange meetings in school to explain the options in more detail and the implications for your child. We will also be very happy to support you in responding to the consultation process should you want it.

If you have concerns please do not hesitate to ring or call into school to discuss.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. R. Hall', written in a cursive style.

Maurice Hall
Headteacher