

INFORMATION ON REORGANISATION OF PONTELAND PARTNERSHIP

Background

In July 2016, Northumberland County Council approved the reorganisation of eight of the nine schools that form the Ponteland Partnership from a 3-tier structure of organisation to a primary/secondary structure. £57 million is being invested in schools in the Ponteland Partnership as a result of the reorganisation.

The ninth school in the partnership, Ponteland Community Middle School, is in the process of converting to become an academy and will not form part of the reorganisation process to be implemented from September 2017.

This newsletter is intended to assist parents by highlighting the main areas of change that will be occurring in the partnership from September 2017. Some of these changes will be generic, while other changes may be relevant only to specific schools.

FIRST SCHOOL CHANGES

Timeline

All six first schools in the partnership (Darras Hall, Ponteland, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Stamfordham, Belsay and Whalton C of E First School) will reorganise to become primary schools from **September 2017**. At this point, the new primary schools will retain the Year 5 pupils (the current Year 4) whose parents have decided that they would like them to complete their primary education at their current school. This group of Year 5 pupils will then stay on at their primary school to become the first Year 6 group at the schools from **September 2018**.

Allocation of places in primary schools from September 2017

The schools will not become 'new' schools, therefore the pupils currently on roll in Year 4 will not have to apply for places as they move up into the new Year 5 groups. The expected pathway for pupils who continue into Year 5 at the primary schools is that they will then carry on into Year 6 to complete their primary education; subsequently they would transfer to Ponteland High School at the beginning of Year 7 to begin their secondary journey. The first group of Year 6 pupils to transfer from the primary schools to Ponteland High School as the new Year 7 would do so in **September 2019**.

Parents of pupils currently in Year 4 in the first schools who have applied for a Year 5 place for their child in another school for September 2017 will be contacted on or around 1 March (in relation to Middle School places) or on or around 12 April (in relation to primary school places) to let them know whether or not they have been allocated a place in their preferred school.

If you have applied for a Year 5 place for your child in another school for next year, then you will be asked to confirm whether or not you wish to take up the place within 2 weeks of receiving the offer. If you confirm that you wish to take up the alternative Year 5 place, then the place that is currently reserved for your child in their current school for Year 5 will immediately become open to other pupils. **It will not be possible for a school place to be reserved once confirmation has been received that a current Year 4 child has accepted the offer of a Year 5 place in an alternative school.**

Buildings

Heddon-on-the-Wall St Andrews CE First School: The school will be extended to accommodate the additional year groups and there will be additional play areas and car parking. Work will start on site in January 2017, subject to planning approval, and the accommodation is planned to be ready for September 2017.



Belsay First School: The school will require an extension to its current accommodation. The Council does not own the land and buildings and therefore negotiations are now taking place with the trustees to agree the plans for the extension. It is planned that the extension will be in place for September 2017.

Stamfordham First School: The school will be extended and there will be improvements to the outdoor space and car park in order to accommodate the additional pupils that will remain with the school in Year 5 in September 2017 and in Year 6 in September 2018.

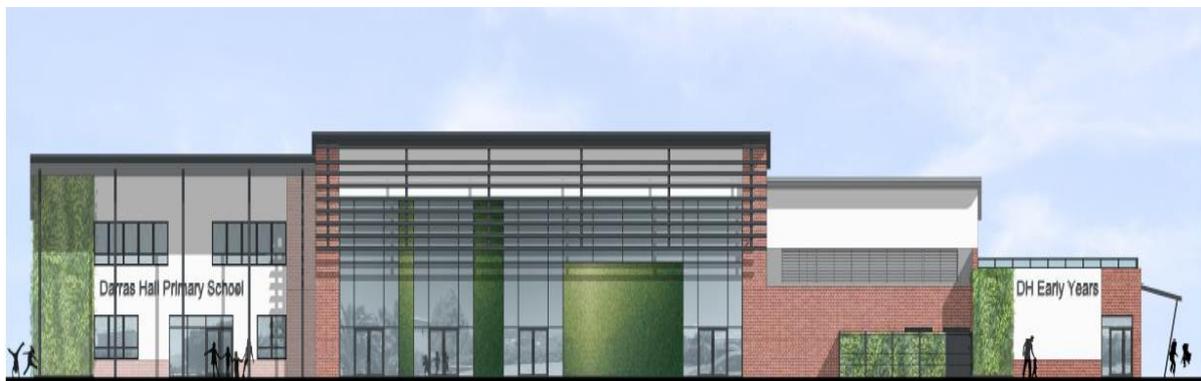


Whalton C of E First School: Like Stamfordham, the school will be extended to accommodate the additional pupils that will remain with the school in Year 5 in September 2017 and in Year 6 in September 2018.

Ponteland First School: The school will relocate to its new building on the shared site with Ponteland High School and leisure/community facilities from September 2019. To accommodate the additional classes at the school from September 2017, it will undergo some internal remodelling for September 2017 and will then receive a mobile classroom for September 2018. Council officers will work with the school to ensure that the configuration of the additional accommodation is suitable for the needs of the relevant year groups.



Darras Hall First School: The school is to have a brand new building on its current site as part of the reorganisation. The planning application for the building has now been submitted and, subject to its approval, works are planned to start on site in March 2017. It's planned that the school will be able to move into its new building in September 2018. Some accommodation in the school's current building will continue to be used as the larger year groups of 90 pupils progress through and out of the school.





Catchment Areas

As a result of the reorganisation, there have been adjustments made to some of the school catchment areas in the partnership.

Three primary schools will serve Ponteland village from September 2017 and therefore the catchment areas of Richard Coates CE School, Darras Hall and Ponteland have been adjusted.

The catchment areas of Heddon-on-the-Wall CE, Stamfordham, Belsay and Whalton C of E First Schools will remain the same as these schools become primary from September 2017. The catchment areas for September 2017 are available on the Council's website at <http://map.northumberland.gov.uk/schools/>.

Planned Admission Numbers

All schools have a Planned Admission Number (PAN), i.e. the number of pupils the school takes into its official intake or transfer year (i.e. Reception in first and primary schools; Year 5 in Middle schools; Year 7 in Secondary Schools; Year 9 in High Schools).

The PANs of the following first schools will change when they become primary as follows;

School	Current PAN	New PAN	Comments
<i>Darras Hall First</i>	90	60 (from Sept 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements will be put in place at the school to manage its pupil numbers as the larger year groups work their way through the school.
<i>Stamfordham Primary School</i>	18	15 (from Sept 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAN to be reduced to manage the configuration of classes within the school as it becomes primary.

RICHARD COATES CE SCHOOL CHANGES

Timeline

Richard Coates CE School reorganises temporarily to become an age 3 to 13 school from **September 2017**. The school will have up to 60 places available in Reception and up to 15 places available in each of Years 1 to 4 from September 2017. The school will also have a Year 5 intake, but this will be reduced to 60 places from September 2017. This arrangement will be in place again in **September 2018**, but in **September 2019** the school will reorganise permanently to become an age 3 to 11 primary school and will accept up to 60 pupils into Reception only from this point.

Richard Coates CE School will also open a 52 place nursery from September 2017.

Allocation of places in Richard Coates CE School from September 2017

Pupils already on roll at the school will move up to their next year group as usual at that time and the current Year 8 will transfer to Year 9 at Ponteland High School or to another school according to parental preference.

If you have applied for one of the 60 places available in Reception for your child in the school for September 2017, you will find out whether you have been successful on or around 12 April 2017. If you have applied for one of the 60 places available in Year 5 for your child at the school, you will find out whether you have a place on or around 1 March 2017.

Where there are more requests for places in Reception or Year 5 than places available (see 'Planned Admission Number below'), places will be allocated in line with the oversubscription criteria set out in the school's Admissions Policy. The Governing Body has decided that there will be 15 places available in Years 1 to 4 in September 2017 and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The above process will be repeated for places in the school for September 2018.

From September 2019, Richard Coates CE School will become an age 3 to 11 primary school and will no longer educate pupils in Years 7 or 8. Parents of pupils in Year 8 on roll at Richard Coates in September 2018 will need to apply for a place for their child in Year 9 at Ponteland High School for September 2019 in the usual way. Similarly, parents of pupils in Year 6 on roll at Richard Coates in September 2018 will need to apply for a place in Year 7 for their child at Ponteland High School for September 2019, in line with the Year 6 parents in the primary schools.

However, as Year 8 education will be removed from Richard Coates CE School from September 2019, pupils who would normally have moved up to Year 8 at this point would be displaced. Therefore, pupils in Year 7 in September 2018 at the school will be guaranteed a place at Ponteland High School in Year 8 for September 2019 and parents will not need to apply for a place unless it is to another high or secondary school.

Buildings

Richard Coates CE School will remain on its current site as it expands to accommodate the lower classes and in September 2019 it will relocate to the current building of Ponteland First School. Council Officers are working with the CE Diocese to ensure that the 'buildings swap' is fair and equitable to all parties involved.

For September 2017, the school will be remodelled to provide early years education, including nursery provision, and suitable accommodation for pupils in Years 1,2, 3 and 4.

Catchment Area

As Richard Coates CE School will transition to become a primary school over two years, its original catchment area will be adjusted to reflect this from September 2017. Three schools will provide primary education to Ponteland village from September 2017 and along with Richard Coates CE School, the catchment areas of Darras Hall and Ponteland First Schools will also be adjusted.

Planned Admission Number

The new Planned Admission Number (PAN) of the school will be adjusted from September 2017 as follows:

	Current PAN	New PAN	Comments
<i>Richard Coates CE School;</i>	120	60 (from Sept 17)	• The change from a middle school structure to a primary school structure will be phased in over 2 years.

The catchment area for Richard Coates CE School for September 2017 is available on the Council's website at <http://map.northumberland.gov.uk/schools/>.

PONTELAND HIGH SCHOOL CHANGES

Timeline

Ponteland High School will reorganise to become an 11 to 18 secondary school from September 2019 in its new building. Until 31 August 2019, the school will continue as a 13 to 18 secondary school on its current site.

Allocation of places in Ponteland High School from September 2019

Ponteland High School will change its age range from an age 13 to 18 high school to an age 11 to 18 secondary school and relocate to its new site in Ponteland for September 2019.

The school will continue to have an intake into Year 9 in September 2017 and September 2018 in line with the current process.

In September 2019, the school will have a final intake into Year 9, but will also receive its first intake (via application) of Year 6 pupils transferring from the primary schools and Richard Coates CE School into Year 7 and from Richard Coates CE School transferring from Year 7 into Year 8. There may also be applications for places in Years 7 and 8 from parents of pupils in other schools.

As stated above, pupils in Year 7 in Richard Coates CE School in September 2018 will be guaranteed places in Year 8 at Ponteland High School in September 2019. Applications for the remaining places in Year 8 at the high school will need to be made via the in-year transfer process.

From September 2020 and subsequent years, transfers into the High School will be into Year 7 only via application. Applications for places in other year groups will be via the in-year transfer process in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy.

Buildings

The school will relocate to its new building on its existing site with Ponteland Primary School (as it will be) and leisure/community facilities from September 2019.

The schools, Council Officers and Active Northumberland have been meeting in weekly meetings since mid-October the potential contractors who are taking part in the tendering process for construction of the new buildings and facilities to ensure that the buildings will meet their specifications and best value for money. It is expected that a contract will be awarded to the winning contractor around March 2017 and that a planning application will be submitted in April 2017. The plans will be available for review by staff, parents, pupils and the wider community ahead of the planning submission.



Artist's impression

Catchment Area

Ponteland High School's catchment area, which currently encompasses the catchment areas of the other 8 schools in the partnership, will from September 2017 encompass the primary school catchment areas. Therefore, the actual area covered by Ponteland High School's catchment will not change.

The catchment area for Ponteland High School is available on the Council's website at <http://map.northumberland.gov.uk/schools/>.

Planned Admission Number

The new Planned Admission Number (PAN) of the school will be adjusted from September 2017 as follows:

	Current PAN	New PAN	Comments
<i>Ponteland High School</i>	272	240 (from Sept 19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The reduction in PAN better reflects the number of students resident in the school catchment area, whilst continuing to enable a significant proportion of students from outside of catchment to secure places at the school.

TRANSPORT IMPLICATIONS (GENERIC)

General principles

While eligibility is always based on individual circumstances, in general transport will be provided for eligible pupils to their designated catchment school or to their nearest school. Distance from home to school is measured by the most direct route via road or path.

Existing transport arrangements

In general, for those pupils who already receive home to school transport, those arrangements will continue to operate from September 2017 where transport is to their current school. However, continuing eligibility will be revised at the point of transfer of these pupils to the next phase of education (where applicable) or if transferring to another school in-year, when the revised catchment areas will be applied.

New applications for transport from September 2017

From September 2017, new applications for home to school transport will be assessed for eligibility against the revised catchment areas.

From September 2017, the catchment school for pupils in Reception to Year 5 will be their primary school or Richards Coates CE School (if that is the catchment school). From September 2018 the catchment school for children in Reception to Year 6 will be their primary school or Richard Coates CE School.

From September 2019, the catchment school for pupils in Years 7 to 11 will be Ponteland High School.

PONTELAND COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ponteland Community Middle School is in the process of converting to become an academy as an age 9 to 13 middle school. The transfer year into Ponteland Community Middle School will continue to be into Year 5 each September and students will leave the school at the end of Year 8 and transfer to other schools for Year 9 according to parental preference and availability of places.

Allocation of places in Ponteland Community Middle School for September 2017

If you have applied for a place for your child in Year 5 in Ponteland Community Middle School for September 2017, you will find out whether you have been offered a place on or around 1 March 2017.

Parents of pupils in Year 8 on roll at the school in September 2018 will need to apply for a place for their child in Year 9 at Ponteland High School for September 2019 in the usual way.

Catchment area and Planned Admission Number

	Current PAN	New PAN from Sept 17 onwards	Comment
<i>Ponteland Community Middle School</i>	150	150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PAN remains the same; the Governing Body of PCMS has decided that the school's catchment area for admission purposes will encompass the Ponteland primary school catchment to serve Ponteland and Northumberland. The Governing Body feels the PAN reflects the number of children resident in the Ponteland catchment area whilst continuing to enable a significant proportion of students from outside the catchment to secure places at the school.

The catchment area for Ponteland Community Middle School can be viewed at <http://map.northumberland.gov.uk/schools/>.

Transport applications to Ponteland Community Middle School from September 2017

From September 2017, new applications for transport to Ponteland Community Middle School for pupils in Year 5 will be granted if the eligibility criteria are met and if the school is calculated to be closer to the home address than the catchment primary school or Richard Coates CE School (if that is the catchment school). From September 2018 onwards, new applications for transport to the school for pupils in Years 5 or Year 6 will be granted subject to meeting the eligibility criteria and assessment of the school as nearer to home than the catchment primary or Richard Coates CE School (if that is the catchment school).

In general, for those pupils who already receive home to school transport, those arrangements will continue to operate from September 2017 where transport is to their current school. However, continuing eligibility will be revised at the point of transfer of these pupils to the next phase of education (where applicable) or if transferring to another school in-year, when the revised catchment areas will be applied. New applications for transport to the school from September 2017 for pupils in Year 6, 7 and 8 will be granted if the eligibility criteria are met and it is the closest school to home that offers education in these year groups. This process will remain the same from September 2018 for new applications for transport to the school for pupils in Years 7 and 8 (see above para. re new applications for Year 6 from September 2018).

From September 2019, new applications for transport to Ponteland Community Middle School for pupils in Years 7 and 8 will be granted if the eligibility criteria are met and if the school is closer to the home address than Ponteland High School.

FURTHER UPDATES

Further updates on progress with reorganisation will be given in the New Year.