

Hadrian Learning Trust

# Building a better future for our children



Consultation on Proposals for Significant Changes at  
Hexham Middle School and Queen Elizabeth High School

2 March – 29 March 2018

**The future is always built on the past.**

**For schools in the West of Northumberland,  
our history is a long one.**

It reaches back over 400 years: from Elizabethan foundations; through Victorian Elementary schools; to a system post-1944 with Primaries, Secondary Moderns, Grammar school, and one of the country's very few Technical schools.

The 1970s saw the Primary-Secondary model replaced by First, Middle and High schools, accommodating the move to a comprehensive system without re-building the schools' estate.

The what and the how of curriculum, teaching and learning have also continued to evolve over the years.

We are proud of our history and want to build on it.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a school system that delivers the very best education for all our children and the whole community for years to come.

We believe that a Primary-Secondary system is in the best interests of children who will eventually progress to Queen Elizabeth High School.

With careful consideration for children in the transition period; with the right investment across our schools; with the right planning informed by research and the experience of staff; we can create a sustainable system, with access to state-of-the-art, specialist facilities and with the scale to invest properly in children's academic and personal development.

## **Our vision for the future is:**

- to support Primary schools, including small rural schools, to give every child the best start;
- then, in Secondary ‘schools within a school’, provide the “stepping stone” and pastoral support that are so valued in Middle schools;
- to maintain the high standards and broader opportunities that make QEHS the school of choice;
- and, by the time they leave school, ensure that every child can fulfil their potential.

Achieving this will be challenging; but by working in partnership, by building on what is already a very strong track record, we are confident that we can combine the best of the past with an exciting future.

## **Our consultation**

We are not consulting on ANY of the options set out in Northumberland County Council’s consultation. Instead, we are looking to answer two fundamental questions:

1. Should we change the age range of Hexham Middle School and Queen Elizabeth High School to form an 11-18 Secondary school from September 2021?
2. If a decision is taken by the Council/Department for Education to close Haydon Bridge High School, should we expand to welcome those children from September 2019?

Please read our full Consultation Document before helping us answer these questions. You can get a copy on [www.gehs.net](http://www.gehs.net) or from either HMS or QEHS school reception.

## **What would this mean for your child?**

We understand that this will be the first question that many parents will ask. The answer partly depends on the age of your child. For full details, please see the Consultation Document on the QEHS and HMS web sites.

Our proposals are different to the options put forward by Northumberland County Council and would make change much more manageable.

Our aim in proposing these changes is to improve the educational journey for all children.

## **What would this mean for other schools?**

Hadrian Learning Trust can only make decisions on behalf of HMS and QEHS but we know our proposals would have implications for other schools. Put simply, in order for QEHS to become a Secondary, it would have to be agreed that other schools become Primaries.

In the many other areas that have re-organised, change has taken a variety of forms:

- First schools added Year 5 and Year 6 to become Primaries;
- First and Middle schools merged to become Primaries;
- Middle schools became Primaries;
- Middle schools closed;
- Middle schools changed to become 9-16 or 11-16.

In our view, change need not necessarily mean that many rural schools must close.