

Whitby New School – September 2014

March Update

As you know, the formal consultation by the Local Authority on creating a single, 11 – 19 school, has been extremely positive. This now means that we are into the next formal phase of creating a single 11 – 19 school for Whitby. On 28 May 2014, Elected Members will make the final decision on the proposal; they can, of course, say yes or no.

We must, however, be planning for the possibility now, as we cannot wait until 28 May to put in place a structure for a single school because there simply would not be enough time for all the planning and preparation required. Therefore, whilst we all understand that a decision is still to be made, we are progressing our plans under the assumption that Members will be in favour of the single school proposed.

Where are we now?

1. A transitionary Joint Governing Body is in place and meets every three weeks. To date it has agreed:
 - the composition of joint staff working groups
 - in principle, the roles of senior staff
 - a new business structure
 - the name of the new school – Caedmon College, Whitby
 - names for the two sites – Normanby (for the Whitby Community College site) and Scoresby (for the Caedmon School site)
 - a uniform for students: black trousers, shoes and blazer with white shirt and a House tie
 - a school motto, 'be the best you can be'
 - a House structure using the same four Houses currently used at Caedmon School
 - in principle, the use of the sites for 2014/15 – Year 7/8 at the Scoresby site; Year 9 will have some movement across the sites but will be predominantly at the Scoresby site and Years 10 - 13 at the Normanby site
 - a vertical tutor group system (Years 7 - 9 and Years 10 - 13), a single week timetable with six periods per day and an extensive enrichment curriculum programme, one afternoon per week.

2. Staff working groups include many staff from both schools, working on the following areas:
 - Curriculum, timetable and provision; led by Tony Hewitt and Susan Boyd
 - Pastoral care, behaviour and safety; led by Jonathan Bond and Jen Taylor
 - Teaching and learning; led by Mary Carter and Vicki Rahn
 - Assessment, recording and reporting; led by Sam Jones and Gill Maycroft
 - Premises, travel and contracts; led by Pete Shepherdson and Dave Orton
 - Finance; led by Pat Fitzhugh and Jackie Hunter
 - ICT network and management system; led by Phil Kershaw, Tom Hutchinson and Shaun MacLean
 - Special Educational Needs; led by Hazel Kirk and Mary Carter

- Staff handbook and policies; led by Alison Dimbleby and Jen Taylor
- Governance; led by Keith Prytherch and Tony Hewitt.

If you have any matter you wish to be considered by any of these groups, please contact one of the lead staff as soon as possible. If you are unsure which group to contact then please let either of us know. Much of this work must be completed by 26 June 2014. This is the planned date for the first meeting of the new Governing Body.

3. Timetabling and staffing is ongoing; we will be able to make financial savings this year through some voluntary redundancies which will be ploughed back into maintaining a high level of specialist staff across all three key stages. We wish to maintain key stage expertise whilst developing staff skills across the age range for the new school.
4. Curriculum change is inevitable for all schools and we are currently writing our new Key Stage 3 model, along with ongoing discussions with Year 9 students about their preferences. We wish to secure good opportunities for progress on to Higher Education or employment for all students. More on this will follow in the next update.

At the heart of these changes is the desire to help students to fulfil their potential. Year 11 and Year 13 students have had record results at the College in the last year but we still want to do better and to do this, both schools are mutually supporting each other as we move from strength to strength. Caedmon have just had a visit from HMI who said 'Senior leaders and Governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring urgent improvement identified in the recent Ofsted report.'

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that all of the plans are subject to Elected Member approval in May. If the Elected Members decide to proceed, we can assure you that we will be ready to open as Caedmon College, Whitby, on 1 September, offering all-through education (11 – 19) in well-resourced accommodation, with specialist subject staff, expecting only the best from all our students.

If you wish to contribute to our planning in any form, please do contact either of us.

Regards

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