

A Quality First Education for Whitby

Education is everything and delivering a Quality First Provision for the community of Whitby and surrounding areas is our number one priority. This proposal will allow recent developments and the strengths that have been seen in both schools to not only continue as the newly amalgamated school but to be accelerated to achieve greater educational and personal outcomes. The combined strengths of the two schools will give a firm foundation to achieve greater educational and personal outcomes for our students and therefore the community. It will enhance the quality and choice of academic and vocational education for the future of our young people, providing a platform for a stronger, more sustainable education to support our students in achieving their chosen goals.

The Governing Body did explore alternatives, obviously keeping the status quo and remaining as two separate schools but this would mean ultimately a decline in the provision that could be offered within the individual schools. The school numbers and finances do not allow for a high quality curriculum to be offered with a depth of choice to educate our students for future challenges and opportunities.

The Governing Body have already formed a Federation and although this has provided some opportunities for partnership working and an attempt to make cost savings the short term benefits do not match the long term aims or needs of the students. The ongoing costs of the maintenance and upkeep of the school site is diverting money away from the resources required in the classroom to support and develop learning.

The Governing Body have taken into consideration the creation of new housing and looked at the projected intake of numbers into the area, however these projections do not provide significant increases in secondary school numbers for the foreseeable future.

The Governing Body firmly believe that the future of the secondary provision needs to be able to adapt to the world around us and the climate that we find ourselves in, we also wanted to reiterate that this in no way has been an easy decision for the governors to make, however in order to ensure that we can deliver a fit for purpose education to the young people within the community for the generations to come we feel this would be the right decision for Whitby.

The timeframe in the proposal allows the academic year 2023-2024 to be used as a transitional year, it will allow the students in current Year 10 to complete their examination year without disruption till the end of the summer term in 2024. A staffing structure can be designed, consulted on and implemented to allow staff to begin working on aspects of strategy for the newly amalgamated school. School Leaders can prioritise the transition of key groups of students and ensure that they are supported effectively through the year to be able to enjoy school and be successful. It will allow us to be able to deliver on the key vision statements that are outlined below to shape the future of the newly amalgamated school.

An aspirational culture will form a key part of the working ethos of the school underpinning our high standards and expectations. The commitment to deliver a Quality First Provision for Whitby remains at the heart of our vision and values and will be driven by leaders at all

levels, from governors to senior leaders in the school, working with newly developed student voice teams.

An amalgamation would enable strengths present in the existing separate schools to be combined and to contribute to high quality provision within one school. This would allow a shared vision and leadership enabling a consistent and coherent curriculum across the school. The proposal to amalgamate the two schools would maximise the benefits arising from such continuous provision and would offer greater potential for improving the levels of achievement for all students.

Curriculum

The proposed amalgamated school will provide greater opportunities for curriculum development with a broader, more relevant curriculum being available to our students especially when making their choices at KS4 and KS5. In addition, it will allow a more effective delivery of our 7 year curriculum model for those students joining the new school from our Primary school partners. As a new school we will be better able to ensure that our students will be taught by experienced subject specialist staff who can share and grow their passion and enthusiasm for their subject.. It would be a key priority of the newly amalgamated school to deliver curriculum pathways that will enable students to continue study through year 7 to year 13. Already in planning stages for the curriculum offered in 2023/2024 we can move to a range of 23 subjects being offered to students rather than the current 16 based on current staffing and curriculum time. We intend to broaden and grow our offer at KS5 by establishing a clearer progression route from options at KS4 to KS5 and to retain significantly more students into the sixth form, offering competitive and relevant subjects with links to not only higher education but also to apprenticeships and local business providers.

The opportunities will not stop at the classroom door, we will also aim to deliver an exciting and wide ranging selection of extra curricular activities for all students, making the most of the community resources and links with external partners. These two combined aspects will mean that our students will develop both academically and personally.

Inclusion - SEND/Pastoral

It is essential that within a larger school environment we do our best to make each student feel a part of the school community and we will provide a high quality pastoral structure to support our students and maintain relationships with parents/carers. We will continue to dedicate time to developing an inclusive approach to education for our students, providing space, staff and resources for students who require additional support using the expanded resources that will be available through the proposed amalgamation.

The pastoral and inclusion structure of the newly amalgamated school will provide a larger team for students to be able to access dedicated members of staff who are responsible for student welfare. It is our aim to establish a student centred inclusive school, where students are individuals and as a school community we all take the time and effort to work together and get to know each other ultimately as one quality first provision. The launch of the Targeted Mainstream Provision in January 2023 will be a significant part of our whole school inclusion approach and will provide significant support for students as well as training for our staff.

Teaching

The new school would have a larger team of staff than either of the separate, existing schools so could provide more specialism and expertise covering all of the subjects in the curriculum. At present we have to restrict option choices due to a lack of specialism or the need to timetable staff to other subject areas in other year groups. With a new approach to the staffing model we can offer a broader more diverse range of options. It can also provide staff with more opportunities to develop their skills across the whole secondary age range and can enable the best use of staff expertise.

Sites

The Governing Body have chosen the two sites currently occupied by Caedmon College Whitby and Whitby Sixth Form because these provide the greater capacity for accommodating the number of students within the new school. Maintenance and work on the two sites mean that they are in a good working condition allowing finances to be diverted back into learning resources in the future. There will be logistical aspects to overcome but we will make sure that leaders have plans in place to utilise the space effectively and that all systems are trialled, reviewed and adapted as required.

To reiterate our message from the start of this vision, Education is everything and delivering a Quality First Provision for the community of Whitby and surrounding areas is our number one priority.