



The Whitby Secondary Partnership

A Quality First Partnership for Whitby

17 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to communicate and update you on our priorities as a partnership and to update you on the progress to date.

We are conscious that the plans for the creation of the new school and the bringing together of our schools and communities that we have inherited, are not as advanced as we would have hoped but we are now moving at pace. I am very aware parents are seeking clarification and certainty. We are working hard to develop, consult upon and share a clear plan once we have gathered the necessary information. Please be reassured we will move swiftly, but in being open and honest, we ask for your support while these steps are taken.

We are looking forward to meeting our prospective Year 6 children and parents at the upcoming Open Evening. Primarily, the event is intended to provide an opportunity for our children and families to meet colleagues, to tour classrooms and to be excited by the opportunities and learning that awaits them upon joining our community. Parents will have the opportunity to meet Year 7 pupils most certainly and older pupils, to also understand our curriculum and the level of challenge and aspiration we will bring to our lessons to inspire your child to learn.

As a parent, I know how important these events are and that we will not have all the answers at this time, but fundamentally we can show how much we care, love our subjects, are passionate about our profession and this town of Whitby. We will send communications to parents about our new Year 6 Transition Programme, to provide further reassurance and to address the questions we expect to be asked. Please see our Open Evening as the beginning of your child's transition, should you opt to join us upon this journey, we can assure you, we will work hard to ensure your child has numerous opportunities to participate in activities, meet fellow pupils and to become excited by what we know the new school will offer.

As you may be aware, both schools have undergone a Safeguarding and Health and Safety Review in the last fortnight. This has been prioritised, to ensure that our communities are safe for our children and colleagues, while also complying with statutory guidance that was updated in September. It should be noted that exemplary work was evident but that key actions were identified, and we will now seek to address the issues raised. We have also, as part of this review, identified external actions around traffic, pedestrian crossings, and bus transportation. I know parents have raised many of these items with us directly and please do be reassured we will act. We will be discussing these actions with North Yorkshire Council.

We have also sought to undertake a review of the school sites to determine the capacity of the buildings and the specialist facilities available. This will inform our discussions with North Yorkshire on the investment that needs to be prioritised and any works to be undertaken prior to September. Your Head of School, supported by Adele Pinder (Estates and Compliance) will consult to gather views and to help inform the plans we intend to present to North Yorkshire Council.

Caedmon College, Prospect Hill, Whitby YO21 1LA • www.ccwhitby.org • 01947 602406 • Head of School: Susan Boyd

Eskdale School, Stainsacre Lane, Whitby YO22 4HS • www.eskdale-school.co.uk • 01947 602856 • Head of School: Phil Nicholson

Whitby Sixth Form, Airy Hill, Whitby YO21 1QA • www.sixthformwhitby.org • 01947 601901 • Director of Learning: Vicki Verrill

We aim alongside the work completed above, to share the plans developed by Heads of School and colleagues regarding the school improvement priorities and to improve communication. We will also launch the consultation about the new school mission, values, and name, uniform, plus finalise the physical site arrangements for specific year groups.

This is a journey myself and my Executive colleagues have undertaken numerous times. We are here to listen, consult and shape an exceptional school for the children of Whitby. In being honest, open and asking for a dialogue, through our intended consultation, we are confident that views can be carefully considered and acted upon. Although like you we are keen to bring clarity quickly, we also have a unique opportunity and every decision must be carefully considered, to create a truly fabulous place for our children to learn, a thriving community and a school of which you will be proud.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Britton', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Britton
Executive Leader