

Putting the Learner First

Northumberland schools reorganisation newsletter.

No. 3, September 2005

Second round discussions with Cramlington Partnerships

At the end of last term, you will have received an invitation to attend a meeting at your child's school to discuss proposals for re-organising schools in Cramlington on a primary/secondary basis. There are a number of reasons why the County Council wants to re-organise the School system in Northumberland, but the main reason by far is the desire to improve standards to the level where our children are achieving among the best results in England.

The main purpose of these meetings is to share with you the current thinking on the future structure of the Cramlington School Partnership through a presentation by senior officers from Northumberland County Council. You will be able to ask questions and most importantly, you will be able to give feedback on the proposals. School governors, representatives from early years care and education providers are also invited. Staff meetings will take place separately.

Preliminary discussions have taken place with Head teachers, Chairs of Governors, local County Councillors and representatives from the Learning and Skills Council and the Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses. The result of these has been the formulation of three proposed models for the structure of the Cramlington Partnership which are:

Model A - Beaconhill, Cragside, Eastlea, Hareside, Kramel, Northburn, Shanklea and Burnside First Schools all remain open and change status from First to Primary starting in September 2007. It is likely that most schools will remain on their current sites. However, Burnside may relocate to the Brockwell Middle School site. We are currently carrying out further studies on school sites and buildings to determine the best possible arrangements.

However, across the partnership this model still leaves 210 school places too many. In order to achieve the optimum primary school capacity, two further models have been proposed.

Model B - This is broadly similar to Model A but Burnside and Cragside would have fewer places respectively

Model C - Kramel First School would close and pupils in its catchment area would be taken mostly into Hareside, and some into Shanklea.

In all three models, the High school would become a Secondary School and remain on the same site with an increased capacity of 2,300 places. However, a predicted fall in pupil numbers means this will reduce to around 2,000 places by 2010. At the meeting, you will hear about the exciting developments being planned for the secondary school.

The meetings to which you are invited are 'informal' which means that no final decisions will be made at this time. With your feedback, further alterations could be made to the proposed models or even a fourth model could develop as a result. However, once the views of all those who will be affected by the re-organisation have been gathered and other information such as feasibility assessments on schools has been considered, a final proposed model will be agreed upon and this will be taken into a third round of discussions, which will form the statutory stage of the process. You will be updated on the final proposed model and the statutory consultation at the appropriate time.

The timetable for the second round of meetings is given overleaf:

Timetable for Stage 2 (Step 2) Discussions - Cramlington

School	Date	Time	Venue
Beaconhill First	12/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Beaconhill First
Burnside First	14/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Burnside First
Cragside C of E First	13/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Cragside C of E First
Eastlea First	12/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Eastlea First
Hareside First	13/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Hareside First
Kramel First	13/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Kramel First
Northburn First	15/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Northburn First
Shanklea First	15/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Shanklea First
Brockwell Middle	19/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Brockwell Middle
Parkside Middle	19/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Parkside Middle
Stonelaw Middle	20/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Stonelaw Middle
Southlands Middle	20/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Southlands Middle
Cramlington High	15/09/05	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Hall, Cramlington High

I hope that you will be able to attend. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your views.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to offer child care facilities at these meetings.

Jackie Strong
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