



Directorate for Children & Young People
 School Organisation and Planning Team
 Second Floor
 Kirkgate Buildings
 Byram Street
 Huddersfield
 West Yorkshire
 HD1 1BY

Tel: 01484 221000
acsadmissions@kirklees.gov.uk
 Date: 17th October 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

Ref: Almondbury Community School – Transition of Secondary Phase pupils

You will already be aware that in July 2019 Kirklees Cabinet made the decision to change the age range of Almondbury Community School (ACS) and remove the secondary phase of the school from September 2020.

As previously communicated, this means ACS will operate as normal for the current academic year. From September 2020 there will be no new Year 7 starters and all existing pupils from the current Year 7 to current Year 10 will need to transfer to the roll of another school. To help manage transitions, the current Fernside site will be available for a further academic year.

We have listened to parents/carers and our shared priority is that transitions need to be well planned, well supported, take account of siblings and provide the opportunity for keeping friendship groups together.

Throughout the process we have continued to work in partnership with local secondary schools and government agencies and we wish to thank parents/carers for their patience during this period. As a result of this work, we are now able to provide the information we know is important to parents/carers to enable them to make an informed preference for one of the following schools, all of which are local to Almondbury.

<p>King James's School</p>	<p>Pupils will be able to join the roll of King James's School from September 2020. King James's will use the Fernside Avenue site (alongside their main school site) from September 2020 for at least one academic year. We are working with King James's to ensure that their main site is developed so that it can accommodate all pupils on a permanent basis in the future. Subject to the completion of this work, King James's will no longer use Fernside and all their pupils will be on the main site.*</p>
<p>Netherhall Learning Campus High School</p>	<p>Pupils will be able to join Netherhall Learning Campus High school, who currently have spaces in some year groups and will make additional places available where possible to meet the preferences expressed by ACS parents/carers. Any pupils who join Netherhall will be accommodated on Netherhall's main site. We are exploring opportunities for some refurbishment work to ensure suitable accommodation is available on a permanent basis.*</p>
<p>Newsome High School</p>	<p>Pupils will be able to join Newsome High School who currently have spaces in some year groups and will make additional places available where possible to meet the preferences expressed by ACS parents/carers. Any pupils who join Newsome will be accommodated on Newsome's main site.</p>

* It is important to note that we are working in partnership with King James's and Netherhall to create a small number of extra places for future Year 7 intakes. This is in addition to supporting transitional arrangements for pupils.

We absolutely understand that you will want to consider this information carefully. For instance, you may wish to take into account how expressing your preference could impact on all your children in the future. We are very keen to support you in expressing your preference and would like to invite you to an open evening on Thursday October 24th.

The open evening will be held at Almondbury Community School, Fernside Avenue building, with representatives from King James's School, Newsome High School and Netherhall Learning Campus High School. Also available to provide advice will be staff from Kirklees Pupil Admissions and staff specialising in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. You can drop in any time between 6pm and 8pm to gain further information and ask questions.

We know that many families have bought school uniform items for ACS which will not be needed in the future. As new uniform will be required for a different school, we can assure you that we will be providing a uniform support package for all existing ACS pupils (as at the date of this letter). Further details will follow and parents/carers are advised to wait until this information is available before purchasing any items of uniform.

Some questions have also been raised about support for transport arrangements. We anticipate that the offer of a place at one of three local schools will mean this is no longer a significant issue for the majority of parents/carers. The existing Kirklees Home to School Transport policy is available at www.kirklees.gov.uk/schooltransport. If transport remains a concern we will speak with individual families to fully understand their circumstances

We understand that parents/carers will want to take account of all their children when making these important decisions. Relevant for parents/carers with younger children (currently in Year 6 and below) are the changes that have been made to secondary school catchment areas. Full details are available at: www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation Information will also be available at the open evening.

Next steps:

Parents/carers with children in Years 7 to 10 are asked to make a preference for the school they would like their child(ren) to transfer to in September 2020 using the attached form. The deadline for making a preference is 8th November 2019.

It is important that we fully understand parental preferences so we can work in partnership with local schools and carry out detailed planning. This will help us to ensure smooth transitions, a high quality curriculum offer for every pupil and a high level of support.

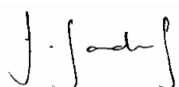
Most pupils will join their new school in September 2020, although there may be opportunities for some groups of pupils to move earlier where this makes sense and a high quality transition can be planned.

Individual support will be provided for Parents/carers of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan by specialist staff.

We will write to you again, including the formal offer of a school place, as soon as possible after the closing date for preferences. We are only asking parents/carers for one preference per child as every effort will be made to match this preference with the formal offer of a school place.

We would like to reiterate that the decision to change the age range of ACS was taken because we want all children and young people to enjoy the best possible standards of care and education in a school which is sustainable for the long term. Our absolute priority is to support young people and achieve excellent outcomes.

Yours sincerely



Jo-Anne Sanders
Service Director for Learning & Early Support

Almondbury Community School - Pupil Preference Form

Please select your preferred school below (select **one** school only by putting an X in the relevant box):

King James's School.....

Netherhall Learning Campus High School.....

Newsome High School.....

None of the above. Please provide me with information about the in-year admission process.....

Parent/carer name/s _____

Postcode _____

E-mail address _____

Child's name _____

Child's current Year group _____

**Please complete one form for each of your children currently in years 7 to 10
and return by 8th November 2019**

Completed forms can be returned by:

Handing in to the office at Almondbury Community School
(additional copies of the forms are also available from the school office)

or

Emailing to; acsadmissions@kirklees.gov.uk

(a Word version of the form can be downloaded from www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolorganisation)

I have read and understood the information on this form and I confirm that I have parental responsibility for this child

Signature of parent/carer _____ Date _____

(The information you provide will be used only in order to allocate your child a school place. It will be stored securely and will not be disclosed to any other person or agency, apart from relevant schools and admission authorities).