

The newsletter of the Partnership between Gateshead Council and Hookergate and Ryton Schools

Issue 3: October 2010

Dear Parent,

In July 2010, the Government announced the disappointing news that we would not get the money for the new school. However, the plans to bring Hookergate and Ryton together are still going ahead in the best interests of the children.

After the consultations in the summer, the Council agreed at its September meeting to go ahead with the legal process to close Hookergate School from 31st August 2011. The formal notices were posted on 1st October 2010 and copies of the full proposal can be obtained from the Council's website at www.gateshead.gov.uk/secondaryreview



Good public transport to Ryton is vital

A review of public transport is in progress, to ensure decent access to Ryton School from all areas - without the need for additional car journeys. There will be improved direct transport routes and we will provide more detail as soon as the timetables have been finalised. Ryton is considering changing the school day to help with transport.

What is happening to the school buildings?

The plan is to keep the Hookergate site open for a further academic year (2011-12) to provide education for Years 8, 9 and 11 only. The site would be managed as part of Ryton School. It is also proposed that the Hookergate site should be shut at the end of the academic year 2011-12 and that staff and students be consolidated on the existing Ryton School site.

A specialist architect is helping us to assess what extra work or buildings are needed on the current Ryton site. As soon as we have firm plans we will make them available at both Ryton and Hookergate schools and on the Council's website.

School Applications for September 2011

We propose that all the primary schools that feed into Hookergate and Ryton will feed into Ryton. The admission number will be increased to reflect projected intakes from 2012 onwards.

The closing date for returning applications for secondary schools is 31st October 2010. Parents who are currently in the process of completing applications for their children for entry to secondary school in September 2011 can seek advice and guidance about the application process from school admission staff in School Organisation tel: 0191 433 2756 / 2109 or from the School Choice Adviser Mrs Sandra Arkless 0191 433 2446. You can also contact Ryton Comprehensive School on 0191 413 2113 to visit or get a school prospectus at www.rytoncs.co.uk

Parents of children **currently** attending Hookergate or Ryton schools need take no action at this stage.

How do we make this a successful school for all the children?

The Governing Body at Ryton remain committed to developing a new identity for Ryton Comprehensive School. In the next few weeks we will be consulting widely with our parents from both communities on their thoughts for a new name and uniform.

Next Steps

1. Deadline for comments and objections to statutory proposal is 12th November 2010 before a final decision is made by the Council for September 2011 (year 7).
2. Closing date for returning admission applications is 31st October 2010.
3. New routes and timetables to be developed for transport to and from Hookergate catchment to Ryton Comprehensive School.
4. Details of the improved accommodation at Ryton to be developed and made available to all parents.
5. Joint school activities are already happening. This is another way the children can begin to feel part of the same school. Look out for details from the schools.

Stay informed

You have told us you want to be kept informed.
These newsletters will go out to every pupil in Hookergate and Ryton and also every pupil in the primary schools linked to both Ryton and Hookergate.

The legal process to close Hookergate

Stage of Process	Description of Process	Details
STAGE TWO	Publication of Notices Formally proposing changes to the school(s).	1st October 2010.
STAGE THREE	Representations Comments and objections on the proposal to be submitted during this period.	Statutory six week period deadline 12th November 2010.
STAGE FOUR	Final Decision Taken in light of the comments and objections received.	Report to the Council's Cabinet, if required.
STAGE FIVE	Implementation Implementation of agreed changes.	Gateshead Council is proposing implementation from September 2011.

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Contact: Sandra Punton on 0191 433 3384, www.gateshead.gov.uk/secondaryreview