



22 June 2009

S J Prandle BA Med FRSA
Headteacher
Callerton Lane
Ponteland
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE20 9EY

Dear Parent

tel: 01661 824711
fax: 01661 821831

Re: Ponteland Learning Trust consultation

E-mail: pchs@pchs.northumberland.sch.uk
Website: www.pchs.northumberland.sch.uk

The governing body of Ponteland High School is considering becoming a foundation school and acquiring a Trust with 1 January 2010 as the proposed implementation date.

The world of education, learning and training is changing rapidly and we wish to ensure that the children and young people within our community have the best possible opportunity to achieve high standards and make outstanding progress. To achieve this they will need to be equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding to ensure they are able to compete effectively in the social and economic environment of the future.

Ponteland High School took the opportunity in 1995 to become a specialist language college – one of the first in the country to take advantage of changes in educational legislation to modify and improve leadership within schools. New legislation allows us to become a Foundation school and set up a Trust. It is a step forward in changing *systems-leadership* so as to make a further positive impact on the education of our young people. We now want to become one of the schools in this first wave of national governance changes and we believe by establishing a Co-operative Trust with Foundation status we will make that positive improvement on the life and work of the school as happened in 1995.

We have already shown that by working with others we can achieve positive outcomes for our young people. The Co-operative Trust will give us a stable and long term platform on which to build partnerships and to be responsive to the needs of our community.

Trust schools are a new kind of school – part of the local authority system, but supported by a charitable Trust which will appoint some of the governors. The governing body will continue to run the school and be responsible for its performance, and it is not proposed to change staffing as part of these proposals.

Details of the proposals can be found in the Consultation Booklet One which accompanies this letter. A public consultation meeting will be held at school and you are invited to attend this meeting. The time and date of the meeting is:

- Ponteland High School – 1 July 2009 at 18:00

We hope that you will contribute to the consultation. Details of how to make comments on the proposals are contained in the Consultation Booklet One and are available on our website under 'Trust Consultation'. We look forward to hearing your views at the consultation meeting.

Yours sincerely

Stephen J Prandle
Headteacher

Mike Brown
Chair of Governors