

20th March 2018

Dear Stakeholder,

As you will be aware Northern Education Trust (NET) has recently consulted on the proposed closure of Thomas Hepburn Community Academy. The consultation period began on Tuesday, 6th February and ended on Tuesday, 6th March 2018.

Consultation packs were sent to over 800 stakeholders and views on the closure were sought through questionnaires, meetings, telephone conversations and a dedicated website. All feedback has now been collated and analysed and is presented in the enclosed document at Appendix 1. Throughout the consultation there have been a number of questions which are included in the attached FAQ document at Appendix 2. Detailed discussions have also taken place and will continue to take place between the Trust and Gateshead Council, particularly around the transition of current Year 9 students should the decision be taken to close, and proposals regarding their transition are attached at Appendix 3.

The attached documents have been considered by Trustees and have been sent to the Department for Education to seek a final decision on the proposal to close. Once a decision from the Minister is received, all stakeholders will be informed of this decision and appropriate next steps.

In the meantime, on behalf of Trustees and myself, I would like to thank everyone for their comments and patience throughout this process. I would also like to reiterate our belief that the children of Gateshead deserve the very best educational provision in order to improve their life chances and our decision making is driven entirely by what is best for them.

Should you have any queries about the document please do not hesitate to call the Academy on 0191 420 4555.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Rob Tarn
Chief Executive