

APPENDIX 3

NORTHERN EDUCATION TRUST

THOMAS HEPBURN COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Proposal for Student Transition: September 2018

This document seeks to outline the proposals to support current Year 9 students in their transition to other secondary schools/academies in Gateshead in order to start their GCSE studies with their new peers.

There are currently 84 students on roll in Year 9 and, during the consultation period, we have spoken directly to 32 parents/carers, met 28 of them and received 28 transfer requests. These requests have been signed by the Principal and sent to the local authority as requested. However, until the decision about closure is made, the transfer requests will not be processed.

Assuming the proposal for closure does go ahead, communication with parents/carers and students is paramount in ensuring a smooth transition.

It is suggested that should the decision be made to close the academy:

- Communication with current Year 7 and 8 students and their parents/carers is key to outline the current limited capacity in these year groups and that plans are being discussed with Head Teachers/Chair of Governors/Trusts to ensure there are sufficient places in the borough for September 2019.
- A joint letter from both the local authority and THCA/NET should be sent to parents/carers of all Y9 students. It is proposed that this letter invites all parents/carers and students into the academy to discuss individual cases and potential placements for September 2018.
- A 'tour' of East Gateshead to be organised to support the students their awareness of the location and offer of schools/academies offering places.
- Distribute prospectus' from all schools that are offering places to all Year 9 students
- Use 'Life' lessons to encourage students to research other schools who are offering places.

For individual meetings, the following would be prepared:

- Details of the number of places available in other schools/academies
- KS4 curriculum offer in other schools
- Any enrichment offers from other schools that may be applicable/of interest to THCA students.
- Home address details
- Current programme of study in Y9
- Details of any managed moves and, therefore, 'no-go' placements, e.g. if a student has failed a MM at a neighbouring school they would not be assigned a place there. Similarly, if they have been moved to THCA through a successful MM then would not go back to their original school.

It is believed that with the information above and individual meetings, there could be a much more structured allocation process. Most importantly, it would allow students to make a much more informed decision about their last two years in compulsory education.