

Atkinson House School

Consultation: Student Voice

On Friday 19 November, we held a Student Voice discussions surrounding the proposal to (a) move to Ponteland and (b) to include girls into the school.

We met with each Tutor Class, including Years 7 to 11.

There were some common themes and messages that came from the students:

Building

- **Positives**
 - The majority of students were excited about moving to a new building.
 - They like the idea that it would a school and not a house.
 - They would like to see the same facilities (Sports Hall, Gym, Art, Science, Construction, MVM) at Ponteland but better.
 - They would love a MUGA and a 3G football court. Cleasewell has a 3G football pitch and they would love one, even if just 5-a-side.
 - Outside facilities were asked for, including a climbing frame and adventure part for Key Stage 3 and a Skate Park for Key Stage 4.
 - They would like to see new rooms, with nice carpet instead of the horrible red carpet.
 - They hope for furniture; chairs and tables that don't wobble when they try and work.
 - They want nice paint on the walls, with a feature wall like it is now.
 - They would like a sensory room and part to the school.
 - The students would like a better WIFI for working on Chromebooks.
- **Areas of concern**
 - Will the school be too big, with lots of students, was the main concern?
 - Concern from the students about getting lost
 - A minority of students do not like change and are anxious about why we have to move

Curriculum

- The majority of Year 10 and 11 students request that we revisit Sixth Form and a curriculum where they can build on their Year 11 grades, in a safe environment. The majority talked about their anxiety of leaving Atkinson House for College and ask for an apprenticeship scheme within the school. (This was the biggest discussion point throughout).
- The students wanted us to think about Key Stage 4 Option subjects, including Design Technology.
- Students would like to know how we would address girls and the subjects they would follow. They talked about hair & Beauty, Business Studies and Child Care

Girls

- There was a mixed view regarding girls.
- The younger students just wanted to stay the same, without girls
- The majority of students felt it was fair that girls were allowed to come, because they do not have the same offer as them.

Transport

- The majority of students were not fazed by the taxi journey. Most thought they would have the same time, apart from those living in Blyth.