



**MONKSEATON
COMMUNITY
HIGH SCHOOL**
Language College

Headteacher: Dr Paul Kelley

Monkseaton Community High School is thinking about becoming a Trust school – this letter is to explain our ideas and proposals and to ask for your views.

Our proposed Trust: The Innovation Trust

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 Dr Paul Kelley will continue as headteacher.

As you know, we already collaborate with many organisations to benefit our students and those in other schools and the aim is to build on and develop these existing relationships. The proposal is that Monkseaton Community High School will also be supported by a charity formed by Microsoft, North Tyneside Council, Tribal Education, and the school itself. Professor Daniel Muijs of Manchester University will support the Trust although he will not be a voting member. The Local Authority is in support of the formation of the Innovation Trust on the grounds that the Council can be a full voting member of the Trust Board. All other partners support this position because they recognise the strategic and democratic role the Council has. However, regulations governing the setting up of Trust schools are currently in the process of consultation on this issue. The charity will have an independent chair, Professor David Reynolds of Plymouth University.

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The work of Dr Kelley and his staff is evident in almost every government document concerned with raising standards and achievement
The Times



Specialist Schools Trust
Most improved specialist schools 2002



Excellent example of integration of technology
European Union



CHARTER STANDARD SCHOOLS
An FA Football Academy



We already have strong links with Microsoft: they give the school the latest software, as well as supporting projects to benefit our students, such as allowing them to participate in events at the House of Commons. The school also works closely with North Tyneside Council, for example supporting every primary school in the area in teaching Modern Foreign Languages. Tribal Education is a national leader in consultancy for schools, colleges and hospitals and will help our school benefit from good practice throughout the public sector. Professor Daniel Muijs has an international reputation in measuring school effectiveness and will help us to monitor the success of our innovations. Finally Professor David Reynolds – who formerly worked at Newcastle University - is one of the country's leading experts in improving schools and innovation to improve learning.

What does this mean for students?

Monkseaton Community High School has always striven to bring the best opportunities to all students – our partners share this commitment and will help us to make it a reality for all our students. We will continue to teach the National Curriculum, but will benefit from partners' experience and ideas to:

- Create, test, share with others new and better ways to help students learn
- Use better information about students' ability, feelings and health to tailor lessons and options to meet their needs
- Improve students' use of technology
- Build on our recent academic improvements and go further to raise aspirations and standards
- Use best practice from other organisations, including universities, to help students learn more easily and improve their health
- Help teachers to benefit from new knowledge and innovation in learning to improve students' learning

We will always work ethically to ensure that we only adopt approaches that have been thoroughly researched and are proven to be beneficial. Existing projects will continue, and the new relationship with our Trust partners will make it easier to plan for the long-term. We are starting to think about how we can improve when students learn, as well as how they manage their own learning.

What does this mean for staff?

The governing body, not the Trust, will continue to run the school and to be responsible and accountable for its performance. The school budget will continue to be delegated to the governing body.

The existing rights of teachers will be fully protected if the school acquires a Trust. We will still be bound by the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document. You will be employed by the school governing body instead of the local authority – all staff will be covered by TUPE arrangements, which safeguard your current terms and conditions and we will continue to recognise the same unions. The Trust will not be the employer.

The school will set terms and conditions for support staff, however terms and conditions will be safeguarded (by TUPE regulations) for existing staff.

The governing body will still have to include at least two members of staff.

The school will remain part of the local authority's family of maintained schools – this means that we will still teach the National Curriculum, and will be bound by the School Admissions Code – we will continue to play our full part in taking hard to place pupils, and will not introduce selection by ability. Although the school will set its own admissions arrangements, we expect to keep very similar arrangements and criteria to what we have now.

What does this mean for parents?

The school will set its own admissions arrangements. We will continue to be bound by the School Admissions Code (like all other schools). This means that we will continue to have fair admissions and that we will not introduce any selection by ability. We expect to keep very similar arrangements and criteria to what we have now.

The role of the proposed Trust (see 'Our proposed Trust')

As a Trust School, we will have more freedom and flexibility in how we improve the school, and there are safeguards (see FAQs, pages 5-6). Our Trust will support the school, helping it improve learning and raise standards. The Trust will also help the school meet new educational requirements such as personalised learning, Every Child Matters support, and vocational reform. Being a Trust school will create another kind of school in the local community. We will develop our active role in our local community of schools, making a real contribution to the whole community. The Trust will work closely with the governing body, and appoint a minority of the governors. The land and assets of the school that currently are owned by the Local Authority will also transfer to the Trust like Voluntary Aided schools. The governors will remain responsible for all aspects of running the school. Although the Trust has formal responsibilities, the Trust's purpose is to help the school by bringing expertise and support to improve learning for all our students.

Consultation process

Please let us know what you think about the proposal. There are a number of ways in which you can do this. You can:

1. Send back our consultation questionnaire to the school office. (You can access an electronic questionnaire at www.monkseaton.org.uk . You can complete this and email it to Gillian Telford at 96TelfordG@monkseaton.org.uk if you prefer.)
2. Talk to or email the staff governors: Kathryn Furness, Barry Jennings, Paul Kelley and Paul Thompson

3. If you are a parent, student or member of staff, come to the meeting on 5th February 2007 to discuss the proposals with the headteacher, governors and representatives of our school's partners.

The two consultation meetings (for parents, students and staff only):

Parents' and Students' Meeting: 5th February 2007

7.30pm – 9.00pm

This meeting is for parents and students only.

Staff Meeting: 5th February 2007

3.40pm – 5.00pm

This meeting is for staff only.

You can comment at any time until **16th March 2007**. The governors will review all the comments and will decide whether to go ahead, (and whether to amend the proposals to reflect your suggestions and concerns). We will be making available the feedback at www.monkseaton.org.uk. There will be another chance to comment on the formal proposals before a final decision is taken.

If you have any queries about anything you have read here and would like further clarification, please talk to or email Soraya Kazi using the email address shown at the end of the FAQs booklet.

Consultation Questionnaire

Please fill in the consultation questionnaire. If you need more space, please feel free to attach separate sheets, marked with the relevant question numbers. Thank you.

Questions about Trust status

1. How do you feel about Monkseaton Community High School adopting Trust status?

	I support the proposals
	I'm not sure and would like more information on...
	I don't think the school should become a Trust school because....

Questions about partners

2. How do you feel about Monkseaton Community High School working with

- a. Microsoft
- b. North Tyneside Council
- c. Tribal Education
- d. Independent Chair from Higher Education: Professor David Reynolds, Plymouth University

	These are the right partners
	I'm concerned about the school working with ... because ...
	I think the school should think about working with ... as well/instead because ...

3. The partners share our commitment to the school's ambition to strive for realising every student's potential. The Trust will appoint some governors who have the expertise to help the school to make this a reality for all our students. Our vision is:

- A school that values learning, and prepares students for their future
- Excellent vocational and academic provision for all our pupils
- Support for every student to develop new skills and reach their potential.

How do you feel about this vision?

	This is right for the school
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	<p>I don't think ...</p> <p>should be a priority in the vision because</p>
	<p>I would like to see ...</p> <p>included in the school's vision.</p>

4. We propose that the Trust should appoint a minority of governors – this would bring in expertise from our partners, but no group would have overall control and one third of governors would still be elected parents. Do you think this model is right for the school?

	<p>Yes – this sounds like a good idea</p>
	<p>Yes – but I am concerned about ...</p> <p>and I will want more information to be sure about the proposal.</p>
	<p>No – I would prefer the Trust to appoint more governors because ...</p>

	No – I don't like this proposal because ...

General

5. Do you have any other comments, concerns or suggestions that we should think about before we publish formal proposals?

It would be useful if you could provide us with your contact details, especially if you represent a particular organisation, but you need not do so.

Name _____

Parent / Staff / Other _____

Address _____
