



# Tytherington

High School & Specialist Science College

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Our Houses



Oak



Ash



Elm

MS/RAR/SAC

17<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

Recently, you should have received a letter from Cheshire East Council informing you of the decision of Cllr Gaddum to begin formal consultation on a proposal to close Macclesfield High School and open a new four form entry Academy (based on the original model initiated by the previous Government) sponsored by Macclesfield College and Manchester Metropolitan University, using the existing Macclesfield High School buildings. The proposal also includes Macclesfield College taking sole responsibility for the current joint LZ6 Sixth Form provision. We understand that the Fallibroome Academy has also expressed an interest in sponsoring the proposed new Academy instead of Macclesfield College.

We have been informed that the original proposal to close Macclesfield High School and expand Tytherington High School, based on a split site model, has not been taken forward on the basis that it did not satisfy two of the criteria used to judge all 35 proposals that emanated from the informal public consultation process. These were a lack of public support and a concern over additional transport costs. Cllr Gaddum has expressed her gratitude for the leadership and support that the Tytherington High School Governing Body and Leadership Team continue to provide during the reorganisation process.

When the Tytherington High School Governing Body made the decision to allow the Council to consult on the original proposal, it stipulated the following three conditions that the Council needed to deliver to give the proposal the best chance of succeeding and were also most likely to provide long term stability for secondary education in the town:

1. Within legal limitations, seek to address the imbalance in the intake profile of the four secondary schools in the town.
2. Secure capital investment of between £5 - 15million to remodel and upgrade the Tytherington site.
3. Provide additional revenue funding for up to three years to support the transitional arrangements.

Cont.overleaf→

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You will be fully aware that since the Tytherington High School Governing Body agreed to consult on the proposal to expand the school, the change in Government and the outcomes of the recent spending review have dramatically changed the context in which the Council and schools are now operating. The Council, within legal limitations, did review secondary school admission arrangements in the town which resulted in the Fallibroome Academy having to amend its admission policy. The Council has committed £3 million capital investment from its own resources to Tytherington High School which is a response to the urgent need for a major building programme as originally identified by Cheshire County Council to replace poor quality temporary accommodation and increase pupil access to ICT. However the Council has not been able to secure any additional funding to meet the conditions on capital investment identified in the proposal. Over the next three years, major reductions to the Council's budget have removed the capacity to provide transitional revenue funding. In this very different context, the Tytherington High School Governing Body would have had to reconsider seriously the increased level of risk involved in taking the original proposal forward, had it been taken to formal consultation.

The decision does not affect the current support that Tytherington High School is providing to Macclesfield High School. Mr Harrison will continue to be seconded to the post of Acting Headteacher of Macclesfield High School until the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 and Mr Robinson will continue to provide support to Mr Harrison. The temporary leadership team arrangements that are in place at Tytherington High School will also continue until the end of the current academic year.

The focus now for the Tytherington High School Governing Body is to plan for the future and build upon the many strengths of the school that parents/carers clearly value, as demonstrated in the feedback received during the informal consultation process. Governors are very keen to consult with parents and the community in planning the future development of the school in a changing national and local political and educational context and will be providing opportunities to engage you in this debate during the next few months. We want to harness the very passionate support many of you have for the school to help us successfully take the school forward.

Yours sincerely

Martin Smith  
Chair of Governing Body

Andy Robinson  
Acting Executive Headteacher

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