

**St Paul's School**  
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11 February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

### **Secondary School Places in the West End of Newcastle - Update**

We wrote to you at the beginning of December 2020 and again on 7 January this year in relation to our vision for extending St Paul's Primary School and making it into an all-through school for children aged 3-18.

Since that time, we have been in extensive discussions with the relevant officers of the City Council and the Church of England Diocese. We are also in touch with various sections of the Department for Education (DfE), especially in relation to the use of the former Discovery School on George Street.

Our motivation for doing all of this is to seek better provision of Secondary School places for children living in the Inner City including the Inner West, as soon as possible.

Obviously those of you with current Year 6 pupils have made your Secondary Applications for September 2021. That process will follow its natural course through to 1 March 2021 when places in existing Secondary Schools across Newcastle will be allocated.

What we are able to achieve beyond that date depends entirely upon how the City Council and DfE respond to our proposals, which would see us expand St Paul's to offer Secondary places on the former Discovery School, starting with Year 7 and growing year-on-year until a Sixth Form is complete. We would retain the existing Primary School premises and continue to operate here as we do now.

You may know that the former Discovery School site is to be used by pupils of the new Callerton Academy for two years, from September 2021, as their new Secondary School in Newbiggin Hall has not yet been built.

Our ability to start a St Paul's first Year 7 classes is therefore dependent upon permissions being granted, including the DfE's decision about allowing us to share the building with Callerton Academy students before 2023 or to use it as part of St Paul's after that date.

The Discovery School was built for 700 students and, as there will be 120 Callerton children coming down to George Street this year, there would be ample space for another 100 Year 7 children from St Paul's.

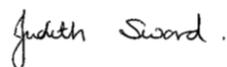
We do not expect to have answers to our questions until after 1 March 2021, for understandable reasons. However, we will continue to strive for the improved Secondary provision which we believe an all-through St Paul's can provide.

We have had enormous help and support from highly-experienced school leaders who have worked across successful Secondary and all-through schools in the North East, including the former Principal of Emmanuel College and the former Principal of Christ's College, an all-through 3-18 school in Sunderland.

We are also building a wider team of supporters and advisers, including Church of England Secondary School specialists. This support will continue to deepen as we prepare to publish our full and formal Proposal just before or soon after Easter.

As always, we will keep you updated with any further information as it becomes available; in the meantime, we continue to work hard to serve your children as best we can during these unusual days.

Yours,



Mrs J Sword  
*Headteacher*



Revd G Curry  
*Chairman of the Governors*