Northumberland County Council

Education Consultations <educationconsultation@northumberland.gov.uk>

Fwd: Bellingham Middle School

1 message

Cath McEvoy <cath.mcevoy@northumberland.gov.uk> 8 May 2018 at 11:47
To: Education Consultations <educationconsultation@northumberland.gov.uk>

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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **David Fletcher** <fletch8928@gmail.com>
Date: 6 May 2018 at 21:35
Subject: Bellingham Middle School
To: Peter.Jackson@northumberland.gov.uk, Wayne.Daley@northumberland.gov.uk, Nick.Oliver@northumberland.gov.uk, Richard.Wearmouth@northumberland.gov.uk, Glen.Sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk, John.Riddle@northumberland.gov.uk, Cath.Homer@northumberland.gov.uk, Veronica.Jones@northumberland.gov.uk, Andy.Johnson@northumberland.gov.uk, Cath.Mcevoy@northumberland.gov.uk, Guy.opperman.mp@paliament.uk, teamoppy@gmail.com, rsc.north@education.gov.uk

I am writing to you to urge you to reconsider the recent decision to close Bellingham Middle School.
As parent of both a current year 5 child and a year 4 currently attending Bellingham First School, i find it incredulous that this decision is even being considered.
The middle school is an integral part of our children's school life, the three tier system in place is the only option that takes into account the remote nature of our community. It is bad enough that some children face journeys of up to two hours to attend a high school at age 13, without subjecting children as young as 11 to this. This move will effectively steal time from our children, time that could be better spent in after school clubs or building their social interactions with peers.
The middle school's excellent and nurturing staff are committed to our children and the facilities and opportunities offered to them during their four years there, I believe, better prepare them for the move to a high school.Studies have shown that Middle schools do not suffer from the dip in standards and results achieved by secondary students at transition.
I believe we are being treated unfairly and unequally from the parents of Hexham and that Northumberland County Council should be in no doubt as to the strength of feeling and the support for Bellingham Middle School and the three tier system in our area.
I appreciate that Northumberland County Council has changes that they wish to make to the current education system, but i do not feel that a move from three tier to two is in our communities interests.
I urge you to reconsider
yours Faithfully
David Fletcher