

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Cumbria County Council, The Courts, Carlisle CA3 8NA intends to discontinue NORTH CUMBRIA TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE (DCSF No. 5408), Edgehill Road, Harraby, Carlisle CA1 3SL and ST AIDAN'S COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL (DCSF No. 5403), Lismore Place, Carlisle CA1 1LY on 31 August 2009.

It is proposed that pupils currently attending North Cumbria Technology College (NCTC) and St Aidan's County High School and the majority of those who would normally have expected to attend these schools will, from 1 September 2009, attend the Central Carlisle Academy proposed to be built on the site of St Aidan's County High School, Lismore Place, Carlisle CA1 1LY. Admission may also be sought to other local schools, subject to places being available.

It is intended that the Academy will provide 1500 places for boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 18, with an admission number of 240 and 300 places in the sixth form.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal were complied with in that Cumbria County Council undertook appropriate consultations on possible changes to the existing secondary schools in Carlisle during the summer of 2006.

It is intended that the Academy will open on 1 September 2009 initially in the same buildings as currently occupied by the existing North Cumbria Technology College and St Aidan's County High School and in temporary buildings on one or both of those sites. The Academy, when the new premises are completed and numbers of pupils allow, will be situated entirely on the site of the existing St Aidan's County High School. The final decision on the establishment of the Academy will be made by the Secretary of State at the end of the feasibility stage. Any decision on the outcome of these proposals will be subject to that approval.

The Council's home to school transport policy will apply. It is anticipated that once the work on the building projects are completed that the number of pupils travelling into central Carlisle will be reduced with a consequential reduction in the number of car journeys.

Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained by contacting Mike Tuer, School Organisation Project Team, 18 Portland Square, Carlisle CA1 1PE (Tel. 01228 606038) (mike.tuer@cumbriacc.gov.uk) or online at www.cumbriacc.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals i.e. by 2 November 2007, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the Manager of the School Organisation Project, Cumbria County Council 18 Portland Square, Carlisle, CA1 1PE.

Signed : R F Mather
Authorised Officer of the Authority
Dated : 21 September 2007

Explanatory Notes

1. Academies are publicly funded independent schools with sponsors from the private and voluntary sectors. The establishment of an Academy is subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State. It is proposed that the closure of North Cumbria Technology College (NCTC) and St Aidan's County High School should be approved to take effect only if by the date of closure an agreement has been made under section 482(1) of the Education Act 1996 for the establishment of an Academy to replace NCTC and St Aidan's County High School.

2. The catchment area of the new Academy, will include the whole of the existing catchment areas of NCTC and St Aidan's County High School.

3. For pupils who live within the catchment area of the Academy, transport to the Academy or the nearest school will be provided in accordance with the Authority's policy which is that free transport will be provided :-

- for pupils age 8 and above who live more than 3 miles away, the distance to be measured by the nearest available walking route. Children from low income families may have an extended entitlement.

or

- are attending a school at the date of closure and live within its catchment area provided:-

a) they attend the new school (ie the Academy)

and

b) the distance from home to the site of the new school attended (ie the Academy) is more than two miles.

4. If the Academy opens, in September 2009 and for a period thereafter, it is anticipated that pupils will be educated at either the NCTC site or the St Aidan's site. Which of the two sites pupils will attend may depend on the extent and timing of the building work planned for the St Aidan's site, the school currently attended and how the Academy is organised whilst the building work is underway. It is not envisaged that pupils will have to travel between the two sites to undertake lessons on a regular basis.

5. All representations made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the representation period will be sent to Cumbria County Council's Cabinet. The final decision on whether or not to implement these proposals has to be made, using the guidance provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, by the Cabinet within 2 months of the end of the representation period.

6. Should you wish for any further information in connection with this notice, this can be obtained by contacting Mike Tuer, School Organisation Project Team, 18 Portland Square, Carlisle, CA1 1PE (Tel. 01228 606038)(E-mail mike.tuer@cumbriacc.gov.uk).