



Children, Young People and Learning

North Tyneside Council
Quadrant East, The Silverlink North
Cobalt Business Park
North Tyneside
NE27 0BY

This matter is being dealt with by:
Julie Firth / Mark Mirfin

Ref: Current Year 8 Middle School pupils

Date: 24 October 2024

Dear parent/carer

We are writing to you as the parent or carer of a child who is currently in Year 8 attending a Middle School in North Tyneside.

You might be aware that the Council entered into a pre-publication consultation on the future of Monkseaton High School, which ends on Wednesday 30 October 2024. If you would like to read more about this and have your say on the future of Monkseaton High School, please visit the Council's [Have Your Say site](#) or use the QR code at the bottom of this letter.

We recognise that this announcement falls at the same time that you will be making decisions about which school you would like your son or daughter to attend when they start Year 9. To do this you are asked to share your first, second and third parental preference [online here](#) or visit **my.northtyneside.go.uk** by 31 October 2024. It is important to remember that, should you not choose a second and third preference, and you are not awarded your first preference school, your child would be allocated a place at the next nearest school to your home with capacity available.

To assist you in making the best decisions for your child, we want to take this opportunity to share with you some information that we think will help:

- As no decision has been taken about the future of Monkseaton High School, it remains an option for you to add the school as your first, second or third preference.

- The Council's admissions portal has been amended to allow you to choose any secondary or high school in the Borough as one of your preferences; previously parents and carers could choose only two high schools within the three-tier system. If you have already completed your online application and would like to amend your application, you can do this up to 31 October 2024.
- Some parents and carers have contacted us because they are concerned about:
 - **School catchments and what will happen to the existing catchment for Monkseaton High if the decision is that the school closes in August 2026.** We want to assure you that the Council is actively considering a number of options, however, we are not in a position to provide you with a definite answer regarding catchment area implications at this stage.
 - **Whether there will be sufficient capacity in our secondary schools for children joining Year 9 in September 2025.** We want to assure you that there is sufficient secondary school capacity in North Tyneside. We are working closely with school leaders and governing bodies to explore any potential to increase the pupil admissions numbers of individual schools to provide parents and carers with more choice.
- If the Council moves to statutory consultation in mid-November 2024 proposing that Monkseaton High School does not admit children into Year 9 in September 2025, we will write to parents and carers of current Year 8 children who chose Monkseaton High School as a first, second or third preference. In that letter we will advise them of the process that will be in place for them to amend their preferences, if they wish to.
- The outcome of your child's application will be communicated on national offer day (3 March 2025) in line with existing arrangements.

We have heard directly from parents and carers about the impact that this pre publication consultation has had on children and their families. We understand that this may be difficult for you at a time when you are making choices about your child's future education. We are very sorry about this and the impact this may be having on you and your child, however, it is essential that the future of the school is

properly considered.

Yours sincerely

Mark Mirfin Julie Firth Assistant Director, Commissioning, Director Children's Services Partnerships and Transformation

Scan the QR code to visit North Tyneside Council's consultation

