



North Tyneside Council

Children, Young People and Learning

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

Ref: Confirmed closure of Monkseaton High School

Date: Friday 20 December

Dear parents and carers,

Last night (Thursday 19 December) North Tyneside Council's Cabinet made the decision to approve the closure of Monkseaton High School on 31 August 2026.

The decision is now subject to a five-day call-in period. This means that for five full working days (excluding weekends and public holidays), the Council cannot action the decision. [You can find the decision and the associated documents here.](#)

A "call in" of a decision can only be made by Councillors who are not members of the Council's Cabinet and they must meet specific criteria set in the Council's constitution. If the decision is not called in, it means that the implementation of the decision will commence in January 2025.

We know that for many of you, this is disappointing news and may change the plans you had for your child next year. We would like to start by apologising for the impact this has had, and will have, on you and your child. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly, however, Cabinet concluded that despite the best efforts of the school leaders and the Council, a sustainable solution could not be found to keep the school open.

Many of you showed a real passion for the school and a large number fully engaged with the consultations to explore alternative options; you told the Council about the impact that the decision could have on you, and we thank you for your contributions. Every suggestion was read and considered, and you can read the response to the consultation on the [Our North Tyneside Voice website](#).

We are now able to share more information about our plans for your child's future education and how we aim to minimise any impact as much as possible.

This letter includes information on the spaces that will be available to apply for at each school, how the extraordinary admissions process will work and other work that is taking place.

Extraordinary admissions process

An extraordinary admissions process will open on Thursday 2 January 2025 for Year 8 pupils in a middle school in North Tyneside:

- who have applied for a Year 9 place at Monkseaton High School as one of their preferences in the normal admissions process; or,
- who have not applied for a Year 9 place for September 2025; or,
- who would like to apply for other schools where only one preference has been submitted on their original application in the normal process.

If your circumstances are not described above, you do not need to do anything else; your application will be progressed in line with our usual admissions arrangements.

If your circumstances are described above, you will have a two-week period, until 17 January 2025, to apply for an alternative school as a preference for your child.

Many schools in the borough will be holding information sessions before this deadline to help inform your decision. There is more information in this letter.

A specific application form to support this extraordinary admissions arrangement will be available on the North Tyneside Council website on 2 January 2025; on that day you will find [this form here](#) or you can access it by using the QR code at the end of this letter. You can either:

- complete this application form and email it to school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk; or,
- print and scan it, and email it to the address above, or return it to the Council at: Access Team, 3rd Floor left, Quadrant East, Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY school.

If you are unable to print this, paper application forms will be available to collect from 2 January at North Tyneside Council's Quadrant reception, the Whitley Bay Community Hub and Library, Monkseaton Library and Cullercoats Library. Your school will also have printed copies available from Monday 6 January.

Irrespective of which route you have used to make an admissions submission for a Year 9 place for your child in September 2025 (e.g., either via the original admissions route or via this extra-ordinary admissions route), we want to assure you that you will continue to be notified of your child's school place on National Offer Day (3 March 2025) like every other child.

At the end of this letter, you will find a timetable (table one) which shares more information about the extra-ordinary admissions arrangement. If the Council is undertaking an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment or maintains your child's Education Health Care Plan, [you will find timetables here](#).

This includes information about the admissions arrangements for your child. We want to assure you that the Council has not deviated from the SEND Code of Practice (2015); if your child has an EHCP this will be issued on 15 February 2025, naming your child's school place for September 2025.

School places

Since the launch of the consultation in September 2024, we have worked closely with school leaders to increase the available school places for children moving into Year 9.

School leaders and Governing Bodies have now formally agreed from September 2025 to admit children up to their existing Published

Admissions Number (PAN) and, in some cases, to make extra places available.

We can confirm that this means across the borough we have 533 Year 9 spaces available in September 2025 for the 486 pupils currently in Year 8.

By working with Headteachers and Governing Boards we have ensured that a greater element of choice is available to you during this extraordinary admissions process, however, as with any admissions process this will be governed by each school's standard admissions criteria.

The extra places referred to in the list below are part of a temporary increase for the year group and are not a change to school PANs. They list the number of places each school may admit up to for this year group only.

The places available in each school, in alphabetical order, will be as follows:

- Burnside college – 16 places
- Churchill Community College – 15 places
- George Stephenson High School – 16 places (including up to 10 additional places)
- John Spence Community High School – up to 22 additional places
- Marden High School – up to 30 additional places
- Norham High School – up to 20 additional places
- North Gosforth Academy – 24 places (including up to 20 additional places)
- Whitley Bay High School – 390 places (including up to 20 additional places)

Information evenings

If you are eligible to change your original submission (as noted above), we have worked with school leaders to arrange an information session with each school. They will take place during the application process and will commence as the Spring Term begins week commencing 6 January 2025.

The timetable of information sessions is available at the end of this letter.

If you are unable to attend an information session, each school's website includes information on the curriculum offer, values of the school and much more, and we have added links to this in table two at the end of this letter for your reference.

Each school will have the booking arrangements listed on their website from 6 January 2025. For some schools, this will include a link to a booking system.

Where a booking system is in place, you will be asked to book your place via the school's website. If you do not have access to the internet or you are not able to do this, please contact your child's existing school on the 6 January 2025 for support.

If no booking system is in place, you do not need to contact the school to make them aware that you plan to attend. Instead, please turn up at the date and time mentioned below.

Please note that Year 9 pupils at Monkseaton High School have also been offered the opportunity to attend one of the information sessions too.

Transitioning into a secondary school

We continue to meet regularly with school leaders, working with them to ensure that where required, a thorough transition process will be in place for pupils joining Year 9 in a secondary or high school in September 2025. We have talked to Headteachers about their existing transition arrangements and shared feedback we received through the consultation to ensure your child is supported.

We have worked closely with Headteachers and their leadership teams in all middle, secondary and high schools in the Borough to ensure that where pupils are transitioning from a middle school to a secondary or high school, they are supported to join Year 9 in a structured and well-managed way.

Accessing additional support

For anyone who would like to access support or to talk to someone about the impact this has had, the Council's Connect Mental Health Team is on hand to support. If your child has an EHCP, you can also contact the SEND Support Service.

We hope this information provides you with clarification on the process moving forward for you and your child.

Over the coming months we will continue to work with schools in the Borough to offer the best support for your child's transition to their new school in September 2025 and will provide you regular updates on how this is progressing.

Thank you.

Julie Firth



Director of Childrens Service

North Tyneside Council

Jon Ritchie



Director of Resources

North Tyneside Council

QR code for extraordinary admissions form



SCAN ME

Table one

Timetable of extraordinary admissions arrangements for pupils in Year 8 in Middle Schools in the North-East Planning Area (NEPA) transferring to Year 9 in September 2025.

DATE	EVENT
2 January 2025	The extraordinary admissions arrangements open for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 8 pupils in a middle school in the North East Planning Area (NEPA) who have applied for a Year 9 place for September 2025 at Monkseaton High School as one of their preferences in the normal admissions process; or,• Year 8 pupils in a middle school in the NEPA who have not applied for a Year 9 place for September 2025; or• Year 8 Pupils in a middle school in the NEPA who would like to apply for other schools where only one preference has been submitted on their original application in the normal admissions process.
7 – 16 January 2025	School information sessions will take place.
17 January 2025	This is the closing date for extraordinary current Year 8 applications.
20 January 2025	The Admissions Team will send details of preferences to Trust schools, Voluntary Aided schools, Academy Trusts, and other Local Authorities where preferences stated are for schools other than the home Authority. Where additional preferences are added for schools outside of North Tyneside, the admission arrangements will be dealt

	with under the published arrangements in that Local Authority area.
24 January 2025	The Admission Authority for each Trust school, Voluntary Aided school and Academy Trust will provide the Authority with a list in rank order in accordance with their admission criteria of all pupils who applied for a place at the school and that can be offered a place.
27 January 2025	The Authority will exchange responses to preferences with other Authorities.
17 February 2025	In line with the published admissions arrangements, the Authority will inform all North Tyneside schools of children who will be offered places at their school.
3 March 2025	In line with National Offer Day, all parents and carers of current Year 8 pupils will be informed of their child's school place for September 2025.
17 March 2025	This is the last date for all parents and carers to accept or decline the school place offer that has been made.
17 March 2025	This is the last date for parents and carers to request in writing that they want to place their child's name on the waiting list for any schools which they have applied for and been refused.
24 March 2025	The Authority will reallocate any places that have become available since offer day.
June and July 2025	This is when appeals will be heard.

Table two

Links to each of the school websites: alphabetical order noted below.

These dates are subject to change. Please visit each school website to confirm.

School	Information and website	Information Evening
Burnside College	Pupils from Year 7 to 14. Wallsend, NE28 7LQ Secondary school with sixth form provision. Visit the website here.	Please visit the school website for information.
Churchill Community College	Pupils Year 7 – 13 Wallsend, NE28 7TN Secondary school with sixth form provision. Visit the website here.	Monday 13 January, 6pm to 6.45pm.
George Stephenson High School	Pupils Year 7 – 13 Killingworth, NE12 6SA Secondary school with sixth form provision. Visit the website here.	Tuesday 14 January, 4.30pm to 5.15pm.
John Spence Community High School	Pupils Year 7 – 11 North Shields, NE29 9PU Secondary school without sixth form. Visit the website here.	Thursday 9 January from 5pm – please visit the school's website for information
Longbenton High School	Pupils Year 7-13 Longbenton, NE12 8ER Secondary school with sixth form provision.	Wednesday 15 January, 6pm to 6.45pm

	Visit the website here.	
Marden High School	<p>Pupils Year 7-11</p> <p>North Shields, NE30 3RZ</p> <p>Secondary school without sixth form.</p> <p>Visit the website here.</p>	Tuesday 7 January from 6pm – please visit the school’s website for information.
Norham High School	<p>Pupils Year 7 – 11</p> <p>North Shields, NE29 7BU</p> <p>Secondary school without sixth form.</p> <p>Visit the website here.</p>	Please visit the school website for information
North Gosforth Academy	<p>Pupils Year 7 – 13</p> <p>Seaton Burn, NE13 6EJ</p> <p>Secondary school with sixth form.</p> <p>Visit the website here.</p>	Monday 13 January, 4.30pm to 5.15pm.
St Thomas More School	<p>Pupils Year 7 – 13</p> <p>North Shields, NE29 8LR</p> <p>Catholic High School</p> <p>Visit the website here.</p>	Thursday 9 January, 4.30pm to 5.15pm.
Whitley Bay High School	<p>Pupils Year 9 – 13</p> <p>Whitley Bay, NE25 9AS</p> <p>High school with sixth form.</p> <p>Visit the website here.</p>	Thursday 16 January, 6pm to 6.45pm.

Kings Priory	Pupils Year reception – 13 Tynemouth, NE30 4RF All through school with sixth form. Visit the website here.	
--------------	---	--