



# **Consultation on proposals for Newbridge Learning Community**



## Introduction

We are writing to tell you about our proposals for Newbridge Learning Community.

Newbridge Learning Community currently offers 80 places for learners who are aged 11 to 16. The learners are organised into small teaching groups relevant to the key stage of their education as follows:

### Current pupil numbers

Year Group	7	8	9	10	11
Number of learners	16	16	16	16	16
Key stage of curriculum	3	3	3	4	4

The number of young people requiring support as a result of special educational needs has been increasing and future projections indicate that this will continue. For pre-16 children there is an immediate shortage of places within the borough for children with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH).

As learners reach 16 years plus there is a need to ensure there is the right type of educational provision to ensure this group of learners have improved chances. This will be achieved by equipping young people with the right skills to secure employment through vocational Study Programmes, Traineeships and Apprenticeships.

### Our proposal

To ensure we address the need to provide both places for those pre and post 16 for learners with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs we are proposing to:

- Increase the number of key stage 3 places at Newbridge Learning Community by 8 from 48 to 56 for September 2016. These would be permanent places for learners with Education and Health Care plans (EHCP) naming specialist provision.
- Develop the current KS4 offer for Newbridge Learning Community for children with social, emotional, and mental health needs so that learners can access a package of vocational and non-vocational provision off site alongside post 16 learners. This will be achieved by developing off site provision at the former Phoenix Centre site at Tyrer Avenue, Worsley Mesnes. This learning hub will also provide vocational routes to employment for young people in transition to adulthood. By delivering a number of KS4 placements at the new learning hub, space will be made available at Newbridge Learning Community to allow for an increase in KS3 learner places.

The KS4 offer would be a mixture of vocational qualifications in a range of sectors, including Construction, Hospitality, Land based, Motor Vehicle, and Media. Maths and English, including GCSEs, employability skills and personal and social development skills. Depending on need other sectors will become available.

## What this means for you and your child

Learners at KS3 will continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum that can be personalised to their needs and allow them to make progress both academically as well as socially and emotionally.

By increasing the intake of learners over two KS3 year groups to 20 in each year group it will give increased flexibility to take into account the group dynamics within each class group and make changes if and when appropriate.

Learners progressing from KS3 to KS4 will still be able to remain on site and access both an academic and/or part vocational and academic pathway as well as benefiting from additional therapeutic interventions. For those best suited to a full time vocational route they could be considered for a place at the new learning hub.

## Transport

Transport will continue to be arranged for eligible pupils in accordance with the transport policy.

## Consultation process

We will hold meetings to give you more details about the proposal and to answer any questions you may have.

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Meeting for staff	Date: 10/05/16 Time: 4pm Venue: Newbridge Learning Community	All staff of Newbridge Learning Community
Meeting for governors	Date: 10/05/16 Time: 4pm Venue: Newbridge Learning Community	All governors of Newbridge Learning Community
Open consultation sessions	Date: 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2016 Time: 10 am Venue: Newbridge Learning Community	These sessions are open to everyone but especially to parents of pupils attending Newbridge Learning Community or those who may have children who will attend in the future.  If you wish to attend one of these sessions, please contact The school either in person or by phone on 01942 776020 and you will be allocated a time to attend.

## The consultation process

This is informal consultation on our proposal to ask you what you think. The information provided in this booklet and at the consultation sessions should be enough to enable you to form an initial view on the proposal. However, at this stage we have not worked out every detail of the proposal as we need to listen to your views and concerns so that the detailed proposals which we make later in the process can take these into account.

We are sorry that due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on proposals for schools we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. It is important to attend the relevant consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal.

Please note that all responses to this consultation will be made available to Elected Members (councillors) for decision making purposes.

## Next steps

We must follow strict legal procedures if we want to reorganise schools. The timetable below shows the periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be made. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Informal consultation – during this time you can make your views known by <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• attending the open consultation sessions (notes will be taken);</li><li>• writing to or emailing the council; or</li><li>• completing the response form at the end of this booklet</li></ul>	9th May to 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 4 weeks in term time
LA considers responses to the information consultation	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Representation period – Statutory notices are published. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the school and in another public place in the area, such as a community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to or emailing the council at the address on page 7. The address and date by which you must send written comments will also be given on the public notice.	Notice to be published 16 June 2016
The council makes the final decision on the proposal*	4 August 2016
If Cabinet decide to agree the proposal, the changes take effect	1 September 2016

\*The following can appeal against the council's decision: The governors of Newbridge Learning Community, Liverpool Archdiocese and Liverpool CE Diocese.

Please note that the timetable may alter. The council or the staff at the schools will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know the new dates we are working towards.

### **Circulation list**

We are consulting the following:

- Parents of children attending Newbridge Learning Community
- Learners at the school
- Governors and staff
- Other special schools in Wigan
- Trade Unions and Professional Associations
- Elected Members (councillors)
- The local Member of Parliament
- The community via the Council web site
- Voluntary groups that use the school premises

Address for correspondence

Wigan Council  
People Directorate: Children and Families  
School Organisation Team  
Waterside House  
Waterside Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 5AZ

Phone: 01942 486035

Email : [wsf@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:wsf@wigan.gov.uk)

## Proposal for Newbridge Learning Community

Please read the booklet carefully before making your response below and place an **x** in the box that most closely describes your views.

- a) Do you think that the booklet clearly explains what we intend to do at Newbridge Learning Community?

Yes

No

- b) Do you understand how and when to make your views known?

Yes

No

- c) Do you think that we should continue with the proposals for Newbridge Learning Community?

Yes

No

- d) Please let us have your comments on the proposals.

- e) If you are planning to attend a drop-in session, please tick a box should you need special assistance with:

Access

Interpreter

Please write your name, address and telephone number below so that we can contact you about these requirements:

6. Please tell us who you are:

- a) A parent of a pre-school child

- b) A parent or guardian of a child attending Newbridge Learning Community

- d) A member of staff at Newbridge Learning Community
- f) A member of staff at another school (please state)
- g) A governor at Newbridge Learning Community
- i) A governor at another school (please state)
- j) A member of the community
- k) Other:

Please provide your name and address below (this information is for identification purposes only and will not be shared beyond the council)

Please return your completed form no later than **12<sup>th</sup> June 2016** to:

Wigan Council  
People Directorate: Children, Adults and Families  
School Organisation Team  
Waterside House  
Waterside Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 5AZ