

Campus Whitehaven

This document seeks to set out the collective thoughts of Mayfield and St Benedict's schools, as expressed by their headteachers in the first instance, should the campus proposals become a reality. The aim of this document is to enliven the proposals set out in Cumbria County Council's (WYG) feasibility study. Both headteachers have shared this document with their respective chairs of governors, and should be seen as a preface to the feasibility report. A power point version of this document has also been developed for ease of sharing. It is recognised that this document is set in the context of work already undertaken by WYG and Marcus Orlovsky of Bryanston Square.

As headteachers we see this as possibly a unique opportunity to bring together on one site, an Ofsted rated Outstanding 3-19 Special School (Mayfield) with a good/outstanding 11- 18 VA Catholic High school, to serve the learning community (alongside a Bright Tribe Academy) of Whitehaven. We are excited about the opportunities on offer where our students are concerned, and are keen to ensure that their voices are heard during the commissioning of the campus.

It is recognised that this unique learning campus sits in a geographical area of unparalleled nuclear expertise, holding a global position in the development of decommissioning, commissioning, disposal/storage of nuclear materials, as well as advanced fuel manufacturing. The Dalton Institute is also on our doorstep, a world-class facility with some existing partnerships with the schools. The nuclear industry is supported by a specialised supply chain and one which needs to be furnished with eminently employable individuals. For the students at Mayfield we are very keen that the campus itself seeks to provide, where appropriate, work experience and employment opportunities for students leaving formal learning.

As headteachers we want to provide a stimulating and life-enhancing set of learning opportunities, as well as preparing our students to take their place in society. We know that this is an era of unparalleled economic development which will challenge all of Cumbria in many ways; it is imperative that the unprecedented demands which are about to be made on the pool of available workers (at all levels), is properly managed. The CoNE (Centre of Nuclear Excellence) has been set up to try and meet this challenge; a central plank of the emerging strategy is that of education and the campus is set to play a huge part in providing the next generation's work force. There is in existence, Britain's Energy Coast Blue Print, and strategic plans already developed by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). This document is designed to offer a little "flavour" from both schools' perspective, and to inform the debate. We are keen that both our schools in their own ways are inward looking as well as outward facing. We also know that our curriculum needs to stimulate and challenge our students, but recognise that it would be wise to immerse them in experiences associated with energy production, and especially clean energy. Our students are stewards of this part of the country for future generations.

In terms of context, we also recognise that the campus serves an economically deprived area with historically high rates of worklessness. Some of our shared objectives are to create wonderful learning opportunities, (just imagine, an A level Product Design student working with a Mayfield student to design and manufacture specialist pieces of equipment to enable young people with complex needs which are superior to those currently on offer), or a pupil on the autistic spectrum continuing who uses unique talent to impact on scientific discovery. In addition to this, we imagine our students out and about experiencing first-hand the advantages of clean and renewable energy sources (such as hydro, tidal, solar and wind energy sites), and to bring this to their learning in school.

We are also keen to help our students learn about deprivation and how we need to work together to reduce it. We seek to help young people to understand the importance of healthy lifestyles. We imagine our students sharing opportunities to take exercise and learn about looking after themselves; it is a fact that the area suffers from some of the highest rates of childhood obesity and early death in the country. We also seek to provide assistance to young families, see a reduction in teenage pregnancies, increased take home pay, and ultimately, increased life expectancy. In short, we want super schools which presents young people ready for the world of work, but to do this we need to work with partners to understand fully how best to equip our young people with the skills, knowledge and attitudes the workplace demands. As schools, we seek not only to provide unique sets of learning opportunities, but to work together to overcome a general feeling of poor self-worth and low ambition. We would seek to do this by further inclusion, blurring the lines between Mayfield and St

Benedict's School through the efficient sharing of resources, and by catering for the whole spectrum of young people in our care, through personalised learning programmes, irrespective of which school students are enrolled at. We want to inspire our students through STEM, art, music, culture, sensory awareness, and an ability to share and communicate. We can do this by embracing two schools on one site, in a seamless campus.

As schools, we place great importance on keeping our learners safe and feeling welcomed in a community where individual difference is recognised and celebrated. We want to learn about our individual students and provide for them in an iconic building, an outstanding set of learning opportunities. We are already relentless in our shared pursuit of excellence; our pre-existing school visions are close and are based on everyone thinking, everyone learning, research and development, enquiry based learning, and high levels of staff development.

The campus needs to provide a rich learning provision and curriculum, underpinned by excellent learning and excellent teaching, which deserve to be housed in a "go to" set of buildings designed to provide intelligent spaces for learning, social interaction, and the development of the "right set" of values, so that people can play a full and active part in civic society. The campus needs to celebrate diversity and uniqueness, academic excellence, tolerance and compassion, but with a golden thread based on the theme of energy running through it. This energy commences as individual and personal energy, which will be harnessed into excellent learning progress for all, in a building which is in itself intelligent and based on clean and renewable energy. We want to work together to redefine our curriculum offer so that our students leave us with the best possible knowledge and understanding about how important energy production and particularly, how clean energy production is going to be in their future lives. We can do this through the taught curriculum, the broader curriculum, and our extra-curricular provision.

We want to live and learn in an iconic campus, which has been designed and constructed as a showcase of what Cumbria can achieve. We want to talk about employment for students leaving full-time education, regeneration and innovative use of state of the art technologies, both in the design and use of the building, and in learning more generally. We seek to develop a building and curriculum which is imbued with low carbon energy and clean technologies.

Both schools are excited about working together to draw up a set of strategic priorities, in partnership with their governing bodies, to describe what it may look like in three to five years' time. We would like to work together to develop a campus which not only provides students with an excellent and inclusive opportunity to realise their potential in examinations, but also we aspire to helping to create sustainable employment opportunities, and play our part in creating a dynamic and sustainable future. We are excited about this opportunity and wish to contribute to the design and commissioning of an iconic campus, designed and constructed as a showcase of what Cumbria can really achieve. We want to be regarded as a "go to" place in the creation of places for outstanding teaching and learning, regeneration and innovative, state of the art technologies (in building realisation), as well as in learning and employment opportunities. We know that it's the people that make the difference but the buildings are crucial also.

Following the feasibility report, we would like to work together to outline what may have happened for our learners in three to five years' time. We would like to point to the highest academic achievements for our mainstream students, as well as significant personal growth and development for all our learners, some of whom have complex needs. We would also like to try and paint a picture of not just attainment and progress, but also of individual success stories for our young people. Our vision needs to be shared, ambitious, yet achievable. We already have a common ethos, yet recognise that for the two schools there are certain things that we cherish individually.

For Mayfield this is being able to offer children, young people and the community excellent resources and learning opportunities. The focus of the school is on learning first and foremost, but with an emphasis on physical development and total communication for all. Mayfield is a safe haven for the young people it caters for, with excellent relationships between staff and children and young people. We are committed to working collaboratively and cooperatively in creating partnerships with families and they nurture a real sense of purpose with an emphasis on the provision of high quality teaching and learning. We believe every child and young person deserves a world-class education to ensure they fulfil their full potential and everyone who works with Mayfield children and young people have

high expectations of them and skills to help them learn. Mayfield has a very dedicated staff, engaging their children and young people in learning to enable them to develop in confidence and flexibility and to cope with the demands of adult life. All young people are encouraged to be lifelong learners.

For St Benedict's this is our Catholicity. We recognise a strong sense of faith. We understand Christ's commandment to love God and our neighbours by an inspiring and caring ethos, which is rooted in the Gospel values of respect for life, love, solidarity, truth and justice; we aim to harmonise faith and culture and in doing so, build a better society. We want to work to enrich people's lives; intellectually, physically, spiritually, morally, socially and emotionally. We are about the promotion of a spirit of charity, social justice, a concern for others, embracing practical outreach and partnership, as well as a global awareness. We teach to encourage a strong sense of self-awareness, self-worth, self-fulfilment, so that our students have every opportunity to flourish spiritually, and become highly employable individuals ready to take their place as tomorrow's role models in society. We see a big part of our mission is to prepare students capable of leading fulfilling and purposeful lives which will contribute to the Common Good.

This is a golden opportunity to create a state of the art learning centre, which will enable all our young people to achieve their very best and the skills needed to enhance our community and their lives.