



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to invite you and your child to our open evening on **Wednesday 23 September, from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.**

Choosing a high school is one of the more significant decisions a family makes, and it is rarely settled by a prospectus. So we have kept the evening simple. There are no talks and no set route. The building will be open, the lights will be on, and our teachers and students will be in their own classrooms doing what they do. You are welcome to walk wherever you like, stay as long as you want, and ask us anything you want to know.

I would rather you saw the school as it is than a version of it arranged for one night.

What you will find is a school with a long history and a clear ambition. The Duchess's has been opening doors for young people across this part of Northumberland since 1808, and that phrase still shapes what we do. Ambition, resilience, community, trust, integrity, care and optimism are the values we talk about with our students, and they are the ones we would want you to judge us by.

Over the past two years we have worked hard on the ordinary things that make a school work well: calm corridors, consistent routines, lessons that are purposeful and well taught, and a culture in which children feel known. That work is not finished, and I would not pretend otherwise. But it is deliberate, it is shared across our staff, and you will see the difference it makes in the way the school feels on the night.

Your child will be very welcome. Our students will be in subject areas, and they are the people I would encourage you to talk to most. They will tell you honestly what it is like to be here.

There is no need to book. Simply come along on the evening. If Wednesday is difficult, or if you would prefer a quieter look around during the school day, please contact the school office on 01665 602166 and we will arrange a visit at a time that suits you.

Thank you for considering us. I look forward to meeting you on the 23rd.

Warm regards,

James Wilson
Headteacher

Families with older children considering post-16 study are also very welcome. Our sixth form area will be open on the same evening. The same goes for any younger children that are anxious about moving to big school in years to come – the doors are truly open for all.

Headteacher Mr James Wilson

The Duchess's Community High School, Taylor Drive, Alnwick, NE662DH

Registered address: Pele Trust, c/o Ponteland High School, The Crescent, Callerton Lane, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9EG.
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The Duchess's Community High School is part of Pele Trust.



THE DUCHESS'S COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Open evening



WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER • 5.00PM TO 7.00PM

For Year 6 pupils and their families. Year 5 families looking ahead, and Year 11 students considering our sixth form, are just as welcome.

No talks, no set route, no booking needed. Just come along.
