



To all those who attended our open evening.

Thank you for coming to our open evening on Wednesday. By my rough count, it was the busiest we have ever had, and the building was still busy well after the time we had planned to close. I hope you left with a sense of what the school is like on an ordinary day, because that was the point of leaving it open rather than putting on a show. If your child went home talking about a particular subject, a member of staff or something they got to try, that is what we hoped for.

A few things happen next, and I want you to know what to expect.

Ms Down, who will be Head of Year 7 for the September 2027 intake, will start visiting our primary schools over the coming months alongside Mrs Rhodes, our Assistant Head of Year 7. The purpose is simple: to meet the children where they are comfortable, to learn their names and to hear from the teachers who know them best. If your child attends a primary school outside our catchment schools, these visits will take place after allocation day.

If your child has special educational needs, our SEND team will begin transition visits shortly after the same pattern. Our SENDCO, Mrs Hutchinson, works closely with primary colleagues so that support in place now carries over without a gap in September. If you would like to talk to her before then, please email admin@dchs-alnwick.uk and someone from the SEND team will be in touch.

The deadline for secondary school applications is 31 October 2026, made through Northumberland County Council rather than directly with us. Places are confirmed on National Offer Day, 1 March 2027.

Once places have been allocated, there will be two further chances to come back in the summer term. Our treasure hunt evenings open the whole school for Year 6 children to explore on their own terms, with a trail that takes them into every corner of the building, so that by their first day, the site already feels familiar. Later in the term, we hold our meet your tutor evening, where your child will meet the person who will see them every morning, and you will meet the people who will look after them.

If you have a question at any point between now and September, please email admin@dchs-alnwick.uk or call 01665 602166, and someone will get back to you. Thank you again for coming.

Yours sincerely

James Wilson
Headteacher

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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