

North Craven Schools ... moving forwards

A message from the Principal of Settle College, the Headteachers of all North Craven Schools and their Governing Bodies, and North Yorkshire County Council

June 2012

This is the fourth newsletter providing information on the move towards a new pattern of education in North Craven. In the last edition we answered lots of the questions that parents, staff and the local community had been asking about the new arrangements.

In this issue we provide an update on all the work that is being undertaken by the schools in North Craven, supported by the local authority, in the final term before the new arrangements come into effect. There has been a strong, shared and sustained commitment to ensuring a smooth transition for pupils, which should give parents confidence in the new educational offer from September.

This work will continue in the coming weeks and over the Summer, ready for the new school year and the beginning of an exciting new chapter for North Craven schools.



Planning for the Year 6 curriculum in primary schools

During the last two terms, teachers who will be providing the Year 6 curriculum in primary schools have been building on their existing expertise with the Key Stage 2 curriculum and sharing the experience of teaching staff already delivering the curriculum to Year 6 pupils in other schools. Training and support is being provided across a number of areas of the curriculum specific to the needs of Year 6 including English, Maths, Sex and Relationship Education. This work is being supported by the local authority's quality and improvement team.

This will ensure that, in line with most primary schools in the country, primary school staff in

North Craven will be well prepared and able to deliver the curriculum in a creative way and Year 6 pupils will be supported and challenged, as appropriate.

Primary staff will continue to work closely with secondary colleagues to ensure good transition to Settle College.

Parents are invited to attend a meeting at Settle College on 21 June at 7.00pm, to learn more about the Year 6 curriculum and the transition to Settle College in Year 7.



Planning for the Year 7 and 8 curriculum at Settle College

In parallel with the work going on in the primary schools, there has been considerable preparation to ensure a smooth transition for Year 7 and 8 pupils as they become part of the enlarged Settle College. Again, this work has been supported where necessary by experienced educational advisers from the quality and improvement team.

Where needed, appropriate support and training has been given to teaching staff on the Key Stage 3 curriculum for Years 7 and 8. A range of transition activities have taken place between the schools. Some of this activity will continue into the Autumn term to securely embed these new arrangements.



Funding and resources

Schools have now been informed of the additional budget they will receive for their extra pupils and each school has been deciding how best to organise classes to teach the additional year group(s). In some cases, this will mean changes to individual class structures or class sizes which may vary from year to year. Settle College and a number of the primary schools have been recruiting the additional staff they need to meet the needs of their increased number of pupils. A number of middle school staff have been redeployed as a result although, sadly, some redundancies will still be inevitable.

The local authority has continued to support the transition through the provision of significant financial investment agreed with the Schools Forum from the savings arising from the reorganisation. It has also provided specific financial and HR support to schools in the run up to the change. Schools have themselves invested heavily in terms of management time and training/preparation time for their staff.



Closure of Ingleton Middle School and Settle Middle School

Arrangements are being made to carefully manage the closing down of the two middle schools, including sharing their educational and other resources between schools in the area and agreeing how any financial balances will be redistributed.

It is intended to celebrate the history and contribution which the two middle schools have made to the educational landscape in North Craven over many years.

The governors, staff and pupils of Ingleton Middle School welcome you to a 'Celebration of the Life of the School' to be held at the school on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 July from 2.00pm until 6.00pm each day. On Saturday 7 July between 6.30pm and 8.30pm, former staff will have the opportunity to meet and reminisce. Please join us to meet up with old friends over light refreshments and enjoy a look back at the school through the last eight decades.



Sites and buildings

All the primary schools, with some extra furniture and teaching resources, can accommodate the additional Year 6 pupils, with the exception of Settle Primary School, where a new classroom is currently under construction. This will be completed over the Summer.

Settle College has more than enough room for the additional students it will take on across its enlarged campus. Years 7 and 8 will be based on the lower school site (currently Settle Middle School) and will move across to the upper school for lessons requiring specialist rooms such as Science and Design Technology. A

colourful underpass link is available to ensure safe movement between the two sides of the campus.

The first phase of work to improve accommodation at Settle College has now been completed, including a refurbished library/study area and new science laboratories. The final phase to improve classrooms and circulation space will commence after the exam period to avoid disruption to students undertaking examinations and will be completed over the Summer. The total capital investment to support the new arrangements is more than £2m.



New science labs completed at Settle College and being prepared for use



Settle College has a bright new library and study area



The new classroom being built at Settle Primary



A colourful underpass with CCTV to safely link the two sides of the enlarged Settle College campus



Next Steps

June/July 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools taking final decisions about their class structures, staffing and timetables for September 2012 • Final planning of the new areas of curriculum in primary schools and at Settle College • Detailed financial planning by schools and the local authority for the new academic year • Ongoing training and preparation of staff • Final recruitment of additional teaching and support staff • Transition activities between schools and detailed transition planning for individual pupils with special educational needs • Redeployment or redundancy procedures for middle school staff • Final two phases of improvement works at Settle College and completion of the construction of extra classroom at Settle Primary • Planning for the closing of Ingleton Middle School and Settle Middle School, including celebrations of the schools' histories and contributions to education in North Craven • Planning for the redistribution of resources from the two middle schools to other schools and purchase of any new equipment and resources
13 July 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingleton and Settle Middle Schools and Settle College close to pupils to allow for final arrangements, training and distribution of resources from middle schools
19 July 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary schools close to pupils for Summer to finalise preparations for new term - with the exception of Settle Primary which will close on 20 July
16 July to 31 August 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingleton Middle School site to be decommissioned • Settle Middle School site prepared for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils • Completion of improvement works on Settle College site • Completion of additional classroom at Settle Primary • Proposed start of construction of new primary school - Bentham Primary School
31 August 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal closure date for Ingleton and Settle Middle Schools and disbanding of their Governing Bodies
1 September 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settle College becomes an 11-18 secondary school • Primary schools become 3-11 or 4-11 primary schools
September 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of 2012/13 term • Year 6 pupils continue attending their primary schools • Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils previously at middle schools transfer to Settle College*
Autumn Term 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing monitoring and review of new arrangements by all schools and County Council
December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for decisions about future use of Ingleton Middle School site
September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed opening of Bentham Primary School (subject to construction programme)

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*Unless parents have expressed a preference for, and been offered a place at, another secondary school.