

Q&A's - Parents

1.	<p>Q. How would these proposals benefit the Schools?</p> <p>A. They would benefit the children in both schools by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering ongoing educational excellence • Increasing opportunities for future investment • Providing all the advantages of two separate secondary schools on one site
2.	<p>Q. What are the benefits of a Diamond School?</p> <p>A. Quite simply, it offers the best of both worlds. It is now widely accepted that, in the teenage years especially, girls and boys learn differently and prosper in single-sex groups. Teaching them in separate schools, but with the option of shared experiences when appropriate, allows young people to achieve the best possible academic standards whilst leaving them well prepared for further education and future life.</p>
3.	<p>Q. How would the quality of my child's education change?</p> <p>A. The proposed developments are based on preserving and improving further the high standards of teaching and learning to which we are committed. The excellent pastoral care now provided in both schools will be maintained in all areas.</p>
4.	<p>Q. Would the schools be likely to change in size?</p> <p>A. We would expect an increase in numbers over a period of time. However, class sizes would not change and both schools would maintain our high teacher : pupil ratios, retaining the focus on the individual child which is a strength of both schools.</p>
5. HH	<p>Q. Do I need to register my child for either Polam Hall Junior School or Hurworth House, Darlington?</p> <p>A. Yes. Registration forms will be available from both schools and should be completed and returned by FRIDAY 19TH MARCH.</p>
6.	<p>Q. Will the school fees change?</p> <p>A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children in Polam Hall Junior School will pay the same fee, including any pupils from Hurworth House Junior School that decide to move across the Polam Hall's Junior School • Hurworth House Senior pupils would remain on the current Hurworth fee scale in the first 12 months • Both Senior Schools would work towards harmonised fees after 2010-11 • All fees would be reviewed annually and notified to parents in the summer term
6a.	<p>Q. Could the fees be paid in monthly instalments?</p> <p>A. Yes – using the Holmwoods service.</p>
7. HH	<p>Q. Would my child's scholarship/bursary with Hurworth House School continue at Polam Hall School?</p> <p>A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All scholarships would be maintained for the period of the award, subject to registration by the required date. • Bursaries would also be maintained. Bursary awards are, however, subject to annual review, and the relevant assessments would continue to be made in the summer term.

8. HH	<p>Q. Is my child guaranteed a place in Polam Hall Junior School?</p> <p>A. Yes, subject to registration and parental contract.</p>
9. HH	<p>Q. What would the uniform requirements be for any Hurworth House School pupils on the Polam site?</p> <p>A. There will be no change for Senior School pupils as Hurworth House School would continue to operate as such for the secondary school boys from the Polam site. Every effort will be made to keep costs to a minimum for Junior School parents. Initially a new sweater and tie are all that is likely to be needed. Any other changes would be phased in.</p>
10.	<p>Q. Would the curriculum stay the same?</p> <p>A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in the Junior School would all follow the same Polam Hall School curriculum – currently described as ‘excellent’ in the recent ISI inspection. • Hurworth House School would preserve the continuity of the curriculum for the secondary age boys. • The boys currently studying for GCSEs would be able to complete their courses and would continue to be taught by Hurworth House School on the Polam site. • No change is planned for the Senior girls who would continue to be taught by Polam Hall School
11.	<p>Q. Would the Junior School classes be mixed?</p> <p>A. Our intention would be to introduce the diamond model at Y5 and Y6 as soon as Polam Hall Junior School has enough boys to make this a viable option. A decision will be taken for September 2010 once the numbers of boys are known. Our overriding principle is to preserve the quality of education for all our children.</p>
12.	<p>Q. Would the Senior Schools be completely separate?</p> <p>A. Each school will retain its identity. Yes, they will be separate, except where common sense dictates that everyone gains by a shared activity (possible examples include trips and visits, fundraising events, some joint performances).</p>
13.	<p>Q. Is there any chance of going fully co-educational?</p> <p>A. No. We are absolutely committed to the Diamond Model. There are no proposals to merge the two Senior Schools.</p>
14.	<p>Q. What would happen to sport?</p> <p>A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls’ sport will be unchanged • Boys would have specialist PE teachers, as now. They would use Polam Hall where appropriate and continue to use the Hurworth House playing fields.
15.	<p>Q. Who would teach my son at Hurworth House, Darlington (the boys’ secondary school)?</p> <p>A. The required teaching posts would be offered in the first instance to existing Hurworth House staff.</p>

<p>16. HH</p>	<p>Q. When can I see the facilities and accommodation on the Polam Hall site? A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents of Hurworth House Juniors will be invited to special Open Days/Evenings at Polam Hall Junior School over the next few weeks. • Parents of Hurworth House Seniors will be invited to visit Polam Hall and tour the site later this term and during the summer term. • If the proposals are confirmed after consultation, we propose to invite Hurworth House Senior parents to view the refurbished building at the end of August.
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Next Steps

Social Evening for Hurworth House parents: **Thursday 4th March 7pm-8pm**

To be held at Hurworth House School; this will be an opportunity for Hurworth parents to meet representatives from the Polam Hall staff.

Dates will shortly be announced for:

Open Days/Evenings at Polam Hall for Hurworth House parents

Taster days at Polam Hall Junior School for Hurworth House Junior pupils

Joint events during the summer term.

For further information and regular updates please visit www.polamhall.com