

FEEDBACK FROM PITLOCHRY & BREADALBANE FOCUS GROUPS

PITLOCHRY STAFF

Option – Include S5 & S6 at Pitlochry High School

Best outcome

- No transition.
- Continuity of education & relationships.
- No loss of 10 hours a week – travelling.
- Cost of transport reduced.
- Increased uptake in S5/S6 education.
- Makes recruitment easier.
- Families attracted to area to live.
- Build wider achievement relationships with community.
- Dynamic and creative opportunities for timetable & subject choices.
- Greater opportunities for extra-curricular and wider achievement (e.g. after school).
- Increased Higher & Advanced Higher attainment based on comparative N5 grades across Pitlochry & Breadalbane.
- Positive school ethos.
- Pupil responsibility opportunities – setting examples. Enhanced pupil leadership.
- Improvement in mental wellbeing.
- No longer lose pupils in P7 at transition.
- Makes Pitlochry more desirable for families as place to live.
- No longer lose younger siblings when elder siblings move to Breadalbane.

Enhanced steps

- CPD (Continuing Professional Development) staff training.
- Staff feeling challenged by upskilling.

Worst outcome

- Staffing costs.
- Limited course options (but increased on present with Perth College).
- Facilities restricted in senior phase.
- Limited timetabling.

Recovery steps

- VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) possibilities.
- Sharing of resources.
- Funding.
- Community based funding.
- Increased staffing means potential increased course options.
- Perth College liaising > hub in school has better chance of thriving.

Action plan

- CPD Training.
- Funding.
- Maintaining attainment.
- P. destination (attendance).
- Present as preferred option to Lifelong Learning.

Measures of success

- Increased attainment.

- Increase in positive destination.
- Increase in pupil wellbeing, feeling part of a school community.
- Attendance.
- Increased uptake in S5/S6 decreased drop-outs.

Option – Pitlochry S4 Pupils move to Breadalbane Academy

Best outcome

- None?
- Coherent senior phase.
- All Highland Perthshire S4-S6 in Pitlochry, Breadalbane S1 to S3 only.
- Less impact on senior phase with no transition away Nationals/ Highers.
- Clearer S4-6 plan that is cohesive.

Enhanced steps

- What needs to be done to lead to best outcome?
- Liaise with Breadalbane re. S3 courses.

Worst outcome

- Reduced pupil roll – dripping tap.
- Unable to attract staff.
- Existing staff leave.
- Existing pupils leave.
- Lack of choice.
- Leading to closure of school.
- Devalues staff and their attributes.
- Limited S4, S5, S6 volunteering.
- Travel time for even younger children – travel costs.
- Community would suffer as families would move here and young people leave. Insular – no older role models for pupils. Staff demoralisation.
- Tried in past and detrimental to pupil identity and socialisation, detrimental for feeder schools and would kill school.

Recovery steps

- Mitigating worst outcomes.
- Pay rise for staff.
- Encourage able S3's to sit N5's early.

Action plan

- Keep potential for introducing S5/S6.

Measures of success

- “?”

Option – Develop a Highland Perthshire Learning Partnership

- Equity should mean same facilities on both campuses.
- Financial investment for all pupils to have equal opportunities/facilities.

Best outcome

- Pupils – greater / enhanced choice; more choice/ better experience, improved positive destinations.

- Staff – motivation, development shared resources, more collaboration, development, pupils support need.
- Parents – prevent ‘us & them’ culture. More comfortable with the transition. Improved transition.

Enhanced steps

- Formalised meetings.
- Greater planning between departments.
- More time (e.g. INSET).
 - [Related comment] We do this already.

Worst outcome

- We (Pitlochry High School) don't want to lose the education-based library for a public library which has limited access hours.
- Pupils – no impact of learning/ attainment.
 - [Related comment] This could happen if status quo remains.
- Community unhappy if no 5th and 6th year at Pitlochry High School!
- Teachers/ staff/ pupils/ parents with limited relationship.
- Does not increase pupil roll.
- Still at risk of closure in future review.
 - [Related comment] We agree.
- Pupils continue to drop out in Aug at Breadalbane.
- Higher pass rates and percentage uptake at N5 at Pitlochry does not continue at Higher in Breadalbane.
- Individual schools lose their identities.
- Demotivated parents/ pupils/ staff at missed opportunity.

Measures of success

- Fewer Pitlochry pupils drop out at Breadalbane.
 - No future school review.
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BREADALBANE STAFF**Option – Develop a Highland Perthshire Learning Partnership****Best outcome**

- Pupil's attainment raised.
- Pupils feel more included.
- Enhanced health & wellbeing of pupils and staff.
- Pupils less reluctant to transition.
- Staff job retention.
- Sharing good practice.
- Greater progression.
- More learning opportunities.
- Easier transitions with stronger links.
- More flexibility with staff.
- Shared resources and experiences.
- Wider opportunities.
- More community links with staff moving between.
- Less division between pupils.

Enhanced steps

- Subject Principle Teacher meetings.
- Skye meetings.
- Skype lessons – occasionally.
- Teachers visiting schools.
- "Highland Perthshire" prize giving / sports days.
- Early transition sessions / events throughout S1-4.
- Digital/ skype leaning – this allows Pitlochry pupils to get to know Breadalbane staff.
- More teaching visiting/ crossover.

Worst outcome

- Over movement of staff.
- Continued falling roll in Pitlochry.
- Decrease in staff health & wellbeing.
- No time to do extra transition.
- Fewer extra-curricular activities as too much to do.
- Gaps in progressions.
- Shared leadership team – spread too thin?
- Pupils choose to come over for S4 anyway.
- Inability to cope with multi-year/ tri-level classes (not used to this).

Recovery steps

- Full days of staff movement.
- Try a lesson day for parents.
- Make clear that Pitlochry are a positive contribution to Breadalbane Academy.
- More transition events – in departments so they experience tri-level learning in a practical way.

Action plan

- Joined INSET.
- Festival of learning.
- Collaborative activities from S1.

- Joint School trips & events.
- Joint activities week from S1.
- Join Comrie Croft.
- S5/6 residential.
- Extended transition.
- More community events organised between schools (filter out rivalry to benefit community).
- Subject specific transition days.

Measures of success

- Pupils feel confident at transition.
 - Raised attainment.
 - Happy pupils and staff.
 - Job retention.
 - Positive destinations.
 - High attainment levels.
-

PITLOCHRY PUPILS**Option – Include S5 & S6 at Pitlochry High School****Pros**

- No travel.
- I like the school.
- I like this option.
- Improved school building.
- Benefits to the community.
- Smooth transition.
- Save time.
- Pupils might feel better – more sleep.
- Staff might enjoy this development.
- Benefits results.
- S4 and continuation.
- Already know staff.
- Children might be more inclined to stay on for S5/6.
- Vast majority would like to stay to finish their education at Pitlochry.
- Pitlochry has its own identity.
- I don't want to go that far on a bus so I like the option cause we don't need to get up so early.
- Get up at the same time.
- Better learning.
- We can sleep more. Not waking up for the bus so early.
- I like that we have this option.
- Don't have to move to a new school at important stage.
- Less travelling.
- Pitlochry always gets better results.
- It would add more subjects.
- Same teachers you know.
- Don't have to travel to Breadalbane.
- You can do more after school things.
- Please do this.
- Good pass rates.
- More chance for teachers to continue.
- No getting up early to catch the bus! Still have good exam rates and good teachers that know us. Very good idea. No stress of moving.
- Better capacity levels. More subject choice.
- Do Highers and Advanced Highers with the same teachers that you did N5/N4 with.
- Closer to our homes.
- Easier to get to school.
- Had to offer subjects that Breadalbane does.
- We would keep the relationships that we have already.
- 1 to 1 help.
- Less travel.
- Know teachers already better results.
- Defo stay bruv.
- Bring more families in area.
- Less money spent on buses.
- Less people leave after S4.
- People that live in Pitlochry won't have to travel far to go to school.

- If people stay with what they're used to when moving to S5-S6 it might make them work better because they're not going through stressful changes.
- No travel/less.
- Reduced time at end of day to participate in other activities in their own communities and after school activities.
- Would not have the change of teachers and therefore more secure in our learning as we progress.
- Opportunity to upgrade sporting facilities and our fantastic dining facilities.
- Ability to work with Breadalbane to offer a wider range of subjects – those that suit facilities and skills of staff.
- More pupils and staff.
- Good.
- Good idea.
- More support will be there when most needed because more pupils = more staff.
- Know pupils and teachers.
- Don't have to take a bus.
- More pupils will stay in school.

Cons

- Less subject choices.
- Aberfeldy already have this – cost?
- A bit more crowded.
- Too busy.
- School is too small.
 - [Related comment] Then make it bigger.
- The school is smaller.
- Bigger classes.
- A lot of pupils.
- Less for Breadalbane.
- Quite crowded unless the schools get built bigger.
- Had to offer subjects that Breadalbane does.
- Employ more teachers costs money.
- Bad campus.
- Need more modernisation.
- We might have to spend lots of money because the school might not be big enough.
- Have to get more staff.
- None.
- Not as many options.
- Not as many facilities.

Other comments

- Pitlochry deserves better opportunities & facilities.
- Music department work together.
- Breadalbane has more options.
- This is the best option.
- Do this! Great idea!
- The roads are bad in the winter. There is more help here.
- Squished timetable.
- Buses are expensive here so it's good to stay at Pitlochry.
- We prefer this option because it is closer to school.
- Defo stay bruv.
- It would be better because we wouldn't need to get the bus for ages.

- There would be more pupils in the school for socialising with.
- Year groups that would be able to take on more responsibility within the school.
- More leadership opportunities.
- I think that we should have S5 – S6 because it will save time for those in Pitlochry.
- Really good.
- This is the best option.

Option – Pitlochry S4 Pupils move to Breadalbane Academy

Pros

- Better facilities.
- More course choices.
- You don't get moved in between your Nat5's and Highers.
- You get to know the school better before the exams.
- More subjects.
- There are no pros to this option.
- It could help pupils get used to Breadalbane quicker.
- Can spend more money on the school.
- None.
- Cheaper.

Cons

- I don't think this is a good idea.
- Have to go on a bus for 2 hours a day.
- Takes away from revision time.
- Pay to take part in extra-curricular activities.
- If the bus breaks down/ snow then the pupils can't get to school.
- More likely to miss bus.
- You have to pay every day for the bus.
- Don't get a lot of sleep.
- Living outside of Pitlochry its 5 o'clock before you get home.
- If you have after school clubs you don't have a lot of time to get ready.
- Can't stay for after-school activities – have to pay for bus.
- Bus is too long.
- I don't want to go on the bus for so long.
- I don't want to go.
- Might miss the bus and miss the morning subjects.
- Travelling every day.
- Big school – you won't know everyone.
- Worse exam results.
- Longer travel (1hour+ from XXXXX).
- Parents might choose to send children to Breadalbane S1 and school closes.
- Long trip.
- Leave early.
- Less pupils.
- Bigger changes.
- You wouldn't know any teachers.
- Pitlochry get better exam results in S4.
- We enjoy being at Pitlochry High School.
- Too early to move.
- Get up super early.
- Teachers know us better.

- School will be too small.
- Better chance of good qualifications here.
- Roads in the morning.
- Blair Atholl to Aberfeldy too long (snow).
- Miss bus – what happens?
- No after school club option.
- Might close?
- It could affect the work you're doing.
- Rubbish for learning as you move in middle of course.
- Moving the year of your first big exams.
- Teachers here already know how they can help with exams.
- Different content.
- Less travel at Pitlochry.
- Pitlochry's exam results are good and pupils not achieve as high if they move.
- Have to fire staff.
- Lose staff members.
- Don't know teachers.
- Teachers here wouldn't want to work.
- Buses – journey times.

Other comments

- Worst idea of them all.
- No pros.
- Not a good idea.
- I don't like this option.
- This is a great option.
- This is a terrible option.
- I like Breadalbane.
- Hi! ☺
- This is the worst option.
- More busses = more cost.
- Bad, no.
- Pretty terrible.
- Like this choice.
- Alright choice.
- No.
- That's a bad idea.

Option – Develop a Highland Perthshire Learning Partnership

Pros

- You do not have to worry about change.
- More subjects.
- More subject choices in Breadalbane.
- Possibly more subject options.
- I like it the way it is.
- I looking forward to it.
- Partnerships will make it easier for transitioning into S5.
- You have longer till we move up.
- Get to meet more people.
- Do more activities.
- More subjects.

- S5 & S6 at Pitlochry is a better option.
- You get to stay here.
- Smaller classes.
- Learning environment.
- There is no change, and we still have all the same teachers and people we know. There isn't the stress or worry about moving to Breadalbane.
- Lots of trips.
- If it ain't broke don't break it...
- Good start to learning at Pitlochry with better grades in Nat 5!
- Bigger subject choice and better Campus.
- Gives experience of Breadalbane and what happens there.
- Might meet new people and make pals with other pupils.
- Due to the many pupils there may be other classes to try.
- With the location of the school you could get to other places quicker than Pitlochry.
- Similar to what we do at the moment so less anxiety for people who want to go to college.
- Easier for pupils.
- Easier for pupils and staff.
- Nah.
- More subject options.

Cons

- Have to go to Breadalbane.
- Buses are normally late.
- People get put off staying for S5/6 as it's in Breadalbane.
- Don't like the bus.
- Still have to go to Breadalbane.
- Have to pay every day for bus.
- Travel sickness.
- Have to pay for bus if going to after school activities on your own. Finish late. People stop school at S4 because they don't want to go to feldy.
- There isn't any.
- More travel if go to Breadalbane.
- Driving to Breadalbane.
- Long drive, less chance to do after school activities.
- Food is pricey.
- The school will still have the same amount of people, so it's still pretty small.
- Still have to go to Breadalbane.
- Have to move at end of 4th year.
- Travel and time spent travelling instead of leaning and extra-curricular.
- No relationship with teachers and 80% of year group when we 'arrive' at Breadalbane.
- The school would be too big with loads of pupils with different classrooms.
- It would cause a lot of anxiety after leaving.
- People would have to get up earlier.
- There is more bullying taking place at Breadalbane.
- There's more pupils in a small area so it's easier to get sick.
- Still have to change schools.
- Still includes travelling.
- Doesn't give you much of a choice.
 - [Related comments] Nah nah.
 - Same.

- Same.
- Buses are late.
- If you stay after school you have to pay for your bus.

Other comments

- I really don't like Breadalbane so I don't like this option.
- [Related comments]
 - I'm beginning to doubt myself.
 - I don't?
 - I agree.
 - Me too.
- This is a great option.
- No.
- You would still need to renovate the school (windows that open).
- Get rid of diny items no one really eats. Make more buses to Breadalbane in timetable. We need the toilet to have water in it in summer.
- This might be a good option if we had S5 & S6 here.
- Alright choice.
 - [Related comment] Nah.

BREADALBANE PUPILS**Option – Include S5 & S6 at Pitlochry High School****Pros**

- Less disruption.
- Less drop out.
- Save the whole moving drama. w/ friends.
- Smaller classes = 1 on 1 teaching.
- No bus fare – no bus trip.
- Teachers teach senior phase in Pitlochry.

Cons

- Narrowing every student choices.
- Less friendships.
- Tiny prom.
- More crowded in Pitlochry.
- Lose funding for Breadalbane, have to spend money to pay teachers at Pitlochry.

Other comments

- Interschool activities.
- More options should be explored in Pitlochry.
- Some people like it there they don't want to move.

Option – Pitlochry S4 Pupils move to Breadalbane Academy**Pros**

- Better senior transition (easier) – same teachers for subjects.
- Stronger sense of community (better pupil staff/ relationships).
- Makes friends quicker.
- Better studying for exams – know teaching styles.
- Younger people may gain more leadership in Pitlochry School.

Cons

- Teacher's worse opportunities.
- Pitlochry parents don't want.
- 'Closure by stealth'.
- Less young kids in the community.
- S3 is still an important year & still disruptive.
- No sense of input at all.
- Less multiple choice.
- More people travelling by busses.

Other comments

- Only teaching broad general education.

Option – Develop a Highland Perthshire Learning Partnership**Pros**

- Friendships earlier.
- Better internet.
- Not awkward when they move.
- Move is less disruptive when it happens.

- Pitlochry know Breadalbane teachers better.
 - [Related comment] Debateable.

Cons

- Break up senior phase.
- It could be harder to concentrate.
- Harder logistics for mixing.
- Less senior example.
- Travelling wouldn't be sustainable or effective.
- More expensive for council.
- Internet too dodgy for virtual learning.

Other comments

- More activities/ trips between groups.
-

PITLOCHRY PARENTS

Option – Include S5 & S6 at Pitlochry High School

Pros

- Afterschool activities.
- Familiar staff/ pupils.
- Less travel
 - [Related comment] Less tired.
- Continuity for pupils.
- Good exam results.
- Pupil wellbeing – physical & emotional.
- Keep pupils in education when they don't want to transition.
- Develops school for community.
- Retains & attracts staff & new houses.
- Equal opportunities for all Pitlochry pupils.
- Town is more attractive for families & roll will increase across the school.
- Choice/ informed choice.
- Not black & white. Option for Blairgowrie High School students to join Pitlochry High School S5/S6.
- Smaller class sizes positive.
- More subject choices for both schools.
- Less physical activity – no walk to school or cycling.
- Involved in more extra-curricular activities. Stay on you must pay for bus.
- Less involvement with peers who are at the school feel isolated – S5/6 at Pitlochry High School and pupils can feel more inclusive.
- Pupil/ teacher relationship suffers with transition.
- Pitlochry High School has more staff stability which benefits learning.

Cons

- Needs investment & new way of working.

Other comments

- Change the way you're looking at the model > see other schools e.g. Tobermory where from 4th to 5th & 6th (like Pitlochry would like). Changed catchment. The A9 runs both ways! E.g. Dunkeld come to Pitlochry High School.
- Pitlochry pupils are already encountering educational detriment due to the fact that they can't remain in Pitlochry for S5/ S6 and through lack of current course choices.
- Must be done with Highland learning Partnership.
 - [Related comment] Vital.
- Could share staff am/pm or 2/3 day per week.
 - [Related comment] Good idea.
- Look at ways of virtual learning.
 - [Related comment] Good idea.
- Teach more than 1 subject.
- Pitlochry High School pupils feel discriminated upon XXXXX.
- We need more stats regarding numbers who transition from Pitlochry High School to Breadalbane throughout S5/6 years. How many pupils who are in S5 progress onto S6 from Pitlochry High School.
- So many pupils say they would continue to S6 if Pitlochry High School offered this.
- Those kids with ASN are not so well supported for those transitioning. It is daunting for ASN kids.
- Different subjects offered in each school. If staff mobile.

- Breadalbane has problem with staff retention.
- Pitlochry High School would be able to attract more teachers & keep them in the school.
- Teacher turnover is a problem detrimental to education.
- Pupils are not supported adequately.
- Management appear not to care in opinion of pupils.
- Pupils do not have the respect for their teachers due to the above.
- Infrastructure spend is vital for Pitlochry High School. We are in this situation due to lack of spend.

Option – Pitlochry S4 Pupils move to Breadalbane Academy

Pros

- None.
- None.

Cons

- Long term opportunities diminished & beginning of the end.
- Reduction in families moving to and staying in Pitlochry reducing work pool for employers and further reduction in school.
- No staff will come here and we'll lose (potentially) current staff.
- Travel issue – sickness; lack of time for activities. Result A) give travel tablets and be drowsy all day (non-alert); B) Feel ill/ sick all day/ evening.
- Hard to get to parents eve/ concerts. Difficult to get to medical appointments.
- Pay to get home after school activities or pick up: late home; still homework/ projects to do; later to bed; earlier rise = tired children! Bad weather/ no buses – continual bus breakdowns and kids late home or to school.

Other comments

- No option – must remain here.
- Look at SQA results across Scotland > our pupils have performed better over many years (although PKC has a huge gap compared to East Renfrewshire) Why? This would obviously be good for Breadalbane – which it is when our pupils move in 5th year.
- Change in education system is appreciated but removal of S4 pupils would see a decline of the whole secondary & not secure the secondary for the town. This is the new closure option in reality.

Option – Develop a Highland Perthshire Learning Partnership

Pros

- Make the most of the staff skills & facilities in both schools.
- Make more use of local skills i.e. John Muir Trust, Forestry, Businesses to increase opportunities & course choices for pupils.
- Working together (Breadalbane & Pitlochry) drives up standards.
- Use of technology would make a wider choice available.
- Pitlochry School Hub to enable pupils to utilise facilities during road or Breadalbane school closures.
- Opportunity to open facilities and use ideas in community.
- All shared infrastructure is positive and has been requested by Pitlochry High School for years.

Cons

- Needs a good deal of collaboration.
- Won't happen overnight.
- Requires substantial investment in technology/ staff working.
- Needs willingness to change (positive mental attitude).
- Do teachers have time?
- We have lost many of these already through cuts/ lack of investment. Without S5/S6 this is not viable.

Other comments

- When we create S5/ S6 at Pitlochry we can still be a Highland Perthshire Partnership colleges, schools, employers etc.
 - [Related comment] Good point!
- Perth City Campus still working on it.
- This must include expansion of Pitlochry to S5/6.
- This option needs some leadership. It will take a big push to make it work, but it must happen.
- There is a need for more stability in staffing at Breadalbane to encourage investment in long-term partnership.
- Is there sufficient incentive for Breadalbane staff to invest in Pitlochry given that they already have a v good community campus in Aberfeldy and many live remotely and south of Pitlochry.
- Not an acceptable option without S5/S6 option at Pitlochry High School (see option 4).
- If commercial opportunities are developed (e.g. tourism education during vacations) then that could offset costs of employing teachers for S5/S6.
- Should have been discussed well before the enquiry. Been identified as an issue so needs to be addressed!

Option – (Option 4) Highland Perthshire Partnership with S5&S6

Pros

- Includes the school in community facilities.
- Attractive option for staff because of our location, many staff are also parents and members of the wider community. This is different to city schools.
- Enhance children's learning by reducing impact of travel.
- Put Pitlochry High School on equal footing with other schools/ campuses in PKC.
- Breadalbane Academy pupils get an opportunity to advance their learning and life skills by travelling this way.
- Maximises choice for pupils subject choice.
- Provides an opportunity for pupils facing long distances to have senior phase education.
- Allows pupils to continue education in families surrounds and with teachers that know them.
- To increase the occupancy level to make school more viable.
- It might attract families to the town.
 - [Related comment] It will.
- Pitlochry Festival Theatre as a centre for excellence for vocational studies in creative industries is planning to engage with young people from Pitlochry. This would of course be a benefit for BCC pupils too.

Others

- This must go hand in hand with delivery of appropriate physical resources. I.e. buildings & facilities. Simply improving the condition rating of the existing building is insufficient.
 - [Related comment] Important!
- Variation could be core curriculum taught at Pitlochry S1 – S5. Then flexible shared subject choice in S6 with travel to Breadalbane if required = Maximum choice for pupils = greater attainment.

BREADALBANE PARENTS

Option – Include S5 & S6 at Pitlochry High School

Pros

- Carbon footprint.
- No pro's for Breadalbane.
 - [Related comment] Agree.
- Pro/ Threat.
- If Pitlochry High School small classes, great teaching, Breadalbane Academy parents do placing requests.
- Greater career prospects & progression Pitlochry High School staff.

Cons

- V. big impact on education of Breadalbane as subjects & teachers cost.
- Social impact on pupils, smaller school.
- Waste of good purpose built facilities, what was point of investing in Breadalbane not to fill it?
- Worst expensive. Where does the extra money for teachers come from?
- Reducing the numbers at Breadalbane Academy will inevitably lead to a reduction in the other.
- Create a legacy of conflict between the two communities.
- Socially the older children want a bigger group and this is beneficial socially. Bringing the S5 & S6 from both schools is good.
- Risk to provision of Advanced Highers (for all Highland Perthshire pupils) which are essential for university entrance.
- Significant loss of subject choice, range for all pupils in Highland Perth.
- Breadalbane as a strong, school attracts good staff (already a struggle).
- Loss of staff 2.2 Mos + 53 periods of teaching.
- No guarantee pupils would actually stay in Pitlochry.
- Increased costs because Breadalbane Academy under PPP contract is already half full, the costs are the same if its 750 or 300 secondary pupils.
- Loss of vocational as well as academic options.
- Not talking about little children travelling on a bus. Some S1 at Breadalbane travel further than Pitlochry (e.g. Rannoch, Trinafour).
- We will end up with two smallschools.
- Breadalbane Academy is already performing well (in top 50 schools in Scotland).
- Teaching staff may not want to travel/ work virtually.
- Creating a detrimental effect to S5/S6 pupils from Pitlochry.
- Increased social detriment to pupils as smaller classes/ less interaction particularly practical subjects.
- Staff workload Pitlochry High School increase stress, not used to delivering Highers.

Other comments

- Improve transition for P4 pupils coming over to Breadalbane.

- Strengthen links in S3/S4 between both schools.
- Pupils from Pitlochry and parents could visit Breadalbane Academy to see opportunities & facilities.
 - [Related comment] Agree.

Option – Pitlochry S4 Pupils move to Breadalbane Academy

Pros

- Pupils sit exams at end of S4. Some subjects two years of teaching e.g. Chemistry. Much better than 2 year run up to exam.
- More settled.
 - [Related comment] Agree.
- Curriculum.
 - [Related comment] Makes sense move @ S3 after broad general education.
- Increase numbers @ Breadalbane Academy.
 - [Related comment] Agree.
- Improved transition.
- Subject choice @ S5 can be difficult for Pitlochry High School if they haven't studied a subject at S4 in Pitlochry High School.
- Better for educational prospects for Pitlochry High School and Breadalbane pupils as bigger school more choice & financial/ economic gain.
- Makes sense as end of CfE broad and general education.
- Wider group of subjects from younger age.
- More time for Pitlochry High School pupils to settle in before taking exams.
- Protects pupil numbers in Breadalbane Academy. Means protection for teachers/ funding for kids across Highland Perthshire.
- Pitlochry High School pupils can take more subjects in S4. Means more awareness when choosing for Nat 5/ Higher.
- Keeps occupancy rate and cost per pupil affordable in Breadalbane Academy.
- Greater preparation for commencement of senior phase and experience of same teaching styles.
- Time for transition greater and not so stressful/ pressure for Highers and room to improve transition.

Cons

- Teaching staff (recruit) for Pitlochry High School.
 - [Related comment] Yes agree.
- Fewer teachers would want to work in Pitlochry High School.
- No only broad general education stage schools in Scotland.
- Reduce numbers of pupils at Pitlochry High School.
- Detrimental to retaining school in community only having S1-S3.

Other comments

- More enhanced relationship could support.
- Generally a better transition programme for all pupils.
- More joined up subject for Pitlochry High School S4 kids to make move to Breadalbane Academy S5 'virtual' learning @ Pitlochry High School to allow expansion of S4 Pitlochry High School subject choice.
- Better for Pitlochry High School pupils to come to BA after S3 so they have a whole year to adjust before sitting Highers (rather than 6 months).
- Better to concentrate pupils in one school for senior pupils to give them a better choice in career.

- Why not consider stage rather than age. E.g. when ready to start senior phase move across.
- BA is a major long-term financial commitment for P&K. Every child who does not come to Breadalbane Academy diminishes the school. We want to increase occupancy. Bertha Park should not have been built. Bankfoot children used to come to Breadalbane Academy but now don't.

Option – Develop a Highland Perthshire Learning Partnership

Pros

- This has no educational detriment so is the only option.
 - [Related comment] At the moment.
- Pitlochry High School pupils are benefiting (any other options detrimental to Pitlochry High School pupils).
- Doesn't affect Dunkeld parent views.
- Additional subject choice?
- Access to more qualified teachers (subject expertise).
- College model hub – choice, reduce drop out.
- Keep Breadalbane Academy as a strong school & strengthens Pitlochry High School options & options for Perth College access course.
- Aspirational.
- Improves options for kids who drop out.
- Good transitions to college.
- Virtual learning good for tech skills & self-study prep for college.
- Enhance experience and opportunity for all.
- Improve connections and understanding earlier (both ways).
- Projects/ extra-curricular.
- Economy of scale for management/ admin > more resources for teaching.

Cons

- Why make best use of a funding? This should be about education for the pupils but this option seems to be about keeping Pitlochry High School open.
- Really it should be about creating one school in the best building? True partnership would be merging.
- I don't understand what this will look like.
- Will be better for all S5 S6 offer is at Breadalbane. Strive for excellence. At the moment the offer is impressive.
- Perth College offering things at Pitlochry or remote offering at Pitlochry may damage this.
- Still too vague. Councillors and parents must know exactly how this will work, how it can be sustained and how funding can be locked in long-term before any vote is taken.
- Funding is key. Longevity of; conflict (£ per pupil no initiative).
 - [Related comment] Agree.
- Behavioural aspects (S1-S4, more S6).
- Small classes don't run/ my experience – they are dropped from the offer.
- Travelling required?
- Connectivity.
- Quality of connections.
- Teaching.
- Digital can mean isolated socially.
- Costs of Perth College option?
- Poorly defined. Don't understand the offer in Pitlochry.

- If Perth College offering more. More pupils will leave Breadalbane Academy.
- Natural transition to more independent learning.

Other comments

- Improve the offer. The Breadalbane parents must understand the impact.
 - ? A9 dualling effect
 - ? Catchment review effect
 - Not huge budget change when PKC trying to cut some services.
 - Remember Highland Perthshire is not the Outer Hebrides... Comfier buses and bus/ travel experiences all could enhance school/ social aspects.
 - Examples/ case studies?
 - 16-19 England.
 - Opportunities for improving links and a joint shared identity.
 - Resources and training for support teachers.
 - Why would Perth College option be at Pitlochry why not in Aberfeldy?
 - Be braver, a true partnership would be to merge the 2 schools!
 - Would it be better educationally for Pitlochry children to come for all of secondary? Worried that this option is off the table.
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END