

# BRIEFING NOTE

**TO: Scrutiny Panel**

**DATE: 15 June 2010**

**RE: Sneyd**

## Purpose

To respond to Scrutiny's request, at its meeting on 2 March 2010, that asked for an update on the closure of Sneyd be brought to the June meeting.

## 1. Pupils

### **1.1 Numbers**

The numbers on roll at Sneyd are shown in the table below.

Date	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total Y7-11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Total Post-16	Grand Total
01-Oct 09	70	99	93	144	186	<b>592</b>	40	21	3	<b>64</b>	<b>656</b>
21-Jan 10	67	95	65	138	184	<b>549</b>	41	21	3	<b>65</b>	<b>614</b>
01-Mar 10	64	93	64	138	184	<b>543</b>	41	21	3	<b>65</b>	<b>608</b>
17-Mar 10	63	93	63	137	184	<b>540</b>	41	21	3	<b>65</b>	<b>605</b>
29-Mar 10	63	92	57	137	184	<b>533</b>	40	18	0	<b>58</b>	<b>591</b>
18-May 10	62	90	54	137	184	<b>527</b>	37	18	0	<b>55</b>	<b>582</b>

### **1.2 Special circumstances/ needs**

Pupils with educational or social needs including looked after children and carers have been identified.

### **1.3 Year 9 transfers**

All but one of the Year 9 pupils are settled with a Year 10 place from September. The one outstanding pupil is awaiting the outcome of an appeal. Close contact is being maintained with this pupil.

One to one support is being provided to the Year 9 pupils including those who have transferred to their new schools already.

### **1.4 Year 11 transfers**

All pupils intending to continue into a sixth form have had their plans confirmed.

Building on the previous joint sixth form arrangements between Sneyd and Pool Hayes that had common timetabling and joint teaching, the schools are working together to ensure that the Sneyd Year 12 pupils who are progressing to A2 provision receive both high quality learning opportunities and the opportunity to engage in the social aspects of a full sized sixth form, mainly based at Pool Hayes School. Bespoke arrangements, involving other schools as necessary, will be put in place for Sneyd pupils wishing to follow subjects at A2 not available through the partnership between Sneyd and Pool Hayes.

## **2. Cabinet/ Scrutiny**

Reports have been made to Cabinet and Scrutiny as follows:

### **Cabinet**

22 October 2008, 22 April 2009, 15 July 2009, 13 August, 21 October 2009 and 13 January 2010.

### **Scrutiny**

30 October 2008, 20 November 2008, 18 December 2008, 18 March 2009 and 24 July 2009 and 12 March 2010.

## **3. Staff**

Walsall Children's Services – Serco's HR team continue to work with the school to manage the contraction that is resulting from the decline in pupil numbers.

Originally in November 2009, 17 redundancies were identified, of which 3 staff have secured new posts. In May 2010, a further 4 redundancies were identified; this further reduction has been achieved through a combination of volunteers and resignations. The Headteacher's temporary contract ends on contract 31 August 2010.

Support is being provided to staff to find alternative employment and Walsall schools are being encouraged to consider at risk Sneyd staff.

Bumped redundancies are being considered.

Council colleagues in both HR and Finance are being updated on progress.

## **4. Finance**

Funding for the Sneyd 10/11 Year 13 has been agreed (reported verbally at the last Scrutiny meeting). This funding will be used to meet additional costs incurred at other schools and/or the college when teaching Sneyd sixth form students.

The Sneyd budget that is still being jointly managed by the school and Walsall Children's Services – Serco is being discussed with Council colleagues.

## **5. IEB**

Work continues with the school and the IEB to manage the budget.

The IEB and the Governing Body at Barr Beacon Language College have agreed in principle to support Sneyd School's leadership, in partnership. Dame Maureen Brennan will become Executive head teacher, with her Deputy Head teacher, Ms Lesley Clarke, becoming Associate Head teacher. Miss Clarke will be based at Sneyd and will be responsible for the day to day management and leadership for the school from September 2010 until closure, subject to an agreed Memorandum of Understanding between the IEB and the Governing Body. Staff, parents and carers have been informed. The same School Improvement Partner (SIP) will provide challenge and support to both Sneyd School and Barr Beacon College.

## **6. Attendance**

The Education Welfare Officer (EWO) visits the school twice a week and has spoken to all pupils with an attendance below 80% to explain the consequences of not attending school. The Integrated Support Worker (ISW) makes regular visits to the school to support pupils with attendance of below 80-85%. A pupil at Sneyd was selected from a raffle draw for the 'good attendance scheme' and won tickets to a Walsall Football match.

Again, where possible, there will be good liaison between the EWO support for Sneyd and Barr Beacon, to ensure consistent support for children, young people and families in addressing persistent absence at Sneyd.

## **7. Equipment**

Working with the school, Walsall Children's Services – Serco, has developed an inventory of equipment at the school and ongoing leave. Resources surplus to Sneyd's needs will be made available to other schools.

## **Author**

Avril Walton

Assistant Managing Director – Management & Development

☎ 01922 686283

[avril.walton@walsallcs.serco.com](mailto:avril.walton@walsallcs.serco.com)