

# BRIEFING NOTE

Agenda Item no. 5

**TO:** Scrutiny Panel  
**DATE:** 28 April 2011

**RE: Sneyd**

## Purpose

To provide an update on the process of closing Sneyd Community school between 02 March to 05 April 2011.

## 1. Introduction

Formal reports have been made to Cabinet at its meetings on:  
22 October 2008, 22 April 2009, 15 July 2009, 13 August, 21 October 2009, 13 January 2010 and 17 November 2010.

Reports have been made to Scrutiny at its meetings on:  
30 October 2008, 20 November 2008, 18 December 2008, 18 March 2009 and 24 July 2009, 12 March 2010, 15 June 2010, 20 July 2010 and 27 September 2010, 18 October 2010, 4 November 2010, 16 December 2010 and 01 March 2011.

## 2. Pupils

### 2.1 Pupil numbers

Pupil numbers have continued to decline because some pupils are transferring to alternative schools before the end of the current academic year.

Date	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total Y7-11	Y12	Y13	Y14	Total Post-16	Grand Total
Oct- 2008	113	128	149	185	225	<b>800</b>	61	37	1	<b>99</b>	<b>899</b>
Jan- 2009	110	127	148	183	226	<b>794</b>	59	37	1	<b>97</b>	<b>891</b>
May- 2009	108	123	149	184	231	<b>795</b>	54	34	1	<b>89</b>	<b>884</b>
Oct- 2009	70	99	93	144	186	<b>592</b>	40	21	3	<b>64</b>	<b>656</b>
21-Jan 2010	67	95	65	138	184	<b>549</b>	41	21	3	<b>65</b>	<b>614</b>
1-Mar 2010	64	93	64	138	184	<b>543</b>	41	21	3	<b>65</b>	<b>608</b>
21-Apr 2010	63	91	54	137	185	<b>530</b>	38	18	0	<b>56</b>	<b>586</b>
5-May 2010	62	91	54	137	185	<b>529</b>	35	18	0	<b>53</b>	<b>582</b>
8-Jun 2010	62	90	52	137	185	<b>526</b>	35	18	0	<b>53</b>	<b>579</b>
16-Jun 2010	62	81	32	137	185	<b>497</b>	35	17	0	<b>53</b>	<b>549</b>
23-Jul	58	72	23	135	185	<b>473</b>	32	17	0	<b>49</b>	<b>522</b>

2010											
13-Sept 2010	-	42	43	-	135	<b>220</b>	-	11	-	<b>11</b>	<b>231</b>
29- Oct 2010	-	40	42	-	135	<b>217</b>	-	11	-	<b>11</b>	<b>228</b>
26-Nov 2010	-	33	37	-	133	<b>203</b>	-	-	-	<b>0</b>	<b>203</b>
6-Dec 2010	-	32	35	-	133	<b>200</b>	-	-	-	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>
5-Jan 2011	-	31	35	-	133	<b>199</b>	-	-	-	<b>0</b>	<b>199</b>
20-Jan 2011	-	30	25	-	132	<b>187</b>	-	-	-	<b>0</b>	<b>187</b>
14-Feb 2011	-	24	20	-	132	<b>176</b>	-	-	-	<b>0</b>	<b>176</b>
1-Apr 2011	-	19	17	-	132	<b>168</b>	-	-	-	<b>0</b>	<b>168</b>

## **2.2 Pupil Transfers**

Arrangements for the transfer to other schools from September 2011 of pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 have been completed and offer letters have been sent.

Year 8: details of the places offered to the 19 children on roll on 1 April 2011 are provided in the table below.

School	Number of Year 8 pupils transferring
Brownhills	10
Alumwell	2
Blue Coat CE	2
Wednesfield High	4
Wolverhampton to make offer	1

Staff in Planning and Development Services are continuing to work with the families to support them through the transfer process.

Year 9: details of the places offered to the 17 children on roll on 1 April 2011 are provided in the table below.

School	Number of Year 9 pupils transferring including conditional offers for UTC	Number of Year 9 pupils transferring excluding conditional offers for UTC
Black Country UTC	8*	
Brownhills	2	5
Grace Academy	0	3
Blue Coat CE	2	2
Frank F Harrison	1	1
Pool Hayes	1	1
Wednesfield High	2	3
Coppice High	0	1
Shelfield (MM)	1	1

\*Provisional offers

Eight pupils in Year 9 have applied for a place at the UTC from September 2011 and conditional offers have been made. As yet, the Funding Agreement for the UTC has not been signed by

ministers; it is expected that this will be completed in the next two months. Firm offers of places will be sent following this.

Staff in Planning and Development Services are continuing to work with the families to support them through the transfer process.

### **3.3 Year 13**

Pupils in Year 13 transferred to other schools during the autumn half term 2010.

## **4. Uniform and Travel**

It has been agreed that assistance with the cost of uniforms for transferring pupils will be made available for Walsall pupils in Year 8 and Year 9.

Where appropriate, home-to-school transport arrangements are being made for pupils transferring to other schools from September 2011. Depending on the circumstances this may take the form of a bus pass or other arrangements.

## **5. Staff**

Formal process has continued. Most staffing queries have now been resolved. Contract termination dates agreed as 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011 for support staff, with the exception of a few that will be required to remain until the end of August. All teaching staff contracts to be terminated as of 31.08.011.

Employees are engaging well in seeking alternate work and re-deployment opportunities.

## **6. Finance**

The agreed early closure of the school should allow the school to remain in budget through to the 31 August 2011. Pupil numbers as at January 2011 School Census date were close to numbers used in the budget forecast. However, grant funding changes may have some adverse financial impact. Large reserves will be carried forward at the end of the 2010-11 financial year to support the school's budget during its last five months of operation, and every attempt will be made to ensure the school continues to meet the needs of the remaining pupils within its resources.

The Schools' Finance Team will continue to support the school leadership team up to the end of August 2011 to resolve all outstanding financial issues and undertake rigorous budget monitoring.

## **7. Curriculum**

### **Key Stage 3**

Pupils visited the Black Country Living Museum on 4<sup>th</sup> March as part of their Project Work. On 7<sup>th</sup> March the students were involved in First Aid Training which will give them an external qualification to take with them to their new schools. As there are only 20 students in Year 8 and 20 in Year 9 there has been one class in each year since 28<sup>th</sup> February, with 2 teachers in most lessons. This will assist the wide variation in ability and encourage more links to be made in the project lessons.

### **Key Stage 4**

The school have worked with the Walsall Children's Services-Serco ICT consultant to identify cohorts of pupils who would benefit from his expertise, ranging from those already studying ICT to

ensure that they gain the most from their remaining time in the subject both as core and an option, to students who have English and Maths at Grade C or above but may not gain 3 other GCSEs. He has supported pupils and staff to ensure that pupils achieve their potential and in particular 5 A\*-C GCSEs.

18 pupils participated in a week of Work Experience from 28<sup>th</sup> February for their BTEC Retail course.

Regular monitoring is taking place to ensure that all pupils have made applications to colleges or schools. The Information, Advice and Guidance Advisor has been very pro-active and is working hard to support pupils with applications and make contact with colleges to aid a smooth transition.

### **KS3 & 4**

One-to-One Maths Tuition has been funded using 3 Maths tutors to support pupils at both Key Stages. 633 hours have been provided and 52 KS3 and 53 KS4 pupils have participated. Of the 28 Y11 pupils who had tutoring prior to the November Maths GCSE examination, 20 achieved at least a grade C, 26 of them achieved their target grade. Of 34 KS3 pupils who have completed their hours, 24 have achieved their target grade or above. 2 KS3 students are entered for Maths GCSE in the summer because they are currently working at grade C.

### **Inspection**

During the Ofsted monitoring visit (23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> March), inspectors deemed the school to have made sufficient progress to no longer require Special Measures. Overall effectiveness in Ofsted terms is now satisfactory and HMI reported that progress is good for all groups of learners including those with special educational needs. Although attainment is below average, inspectors saw enough evidence to be confident that it is likely to become average by the end of the academic year. The final report is not yet published, but in the verbal feedback it was noted that the LA brokered partnership arrangement with Barr Beacon had been outstanding and had brought about considerable improvements

### **8. Governance**

The IEB met on 28<sup>th</sup> February and 28<sup>th</sup> March. They have considered the progress of students and transition arrangements to other schools. The partnership support from Barr Beacon has been effective and is having a positive impact on the outcomes for students, particularly in mathematics. Staffing has been adjusted to keep within budget while assuring support for the students remaining in the school. Progress against the Ofsted recovery plan has been monitored.

### **9. Press**

Walsall Council and Walsall Children's Services – Serco will continue to work together to ensure that the important information required by parents, carers and pupils is communicated. Statements will be issued, if required, in response to individual enquiries from the media.

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