

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Scrutiny Panel
DATE: 27 September 2010

RE: Sneyd

Purpose

To provide an update on the process of closing Sneyd Community school between 21 July and 10 September 2010.

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 and 13 January 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 and 20 July 2010.

This report provides an update for the period 21 July to 10 September. The school was closed between 26 July and the beginning of September for the summer break.

2. Pupils

2.1 Pupil numbers

Date	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total Y7-11	Y12	Y13	Y14	Total Post-16	Grand Total
Oct-2008	113	128	149	185	225	800	61	37	1	99	899
Jan-2009	110	127	148	183	226	794	59	37	1	97	891
May-2009	108	123	149	184	231	795	54	34	1	89	884
01-Oct-2009	70	99	93	144	186	592	40	21	3	64	656
21-Jan-2010	67	95	65	138	184	549	41	21	3	65	614
01-Mar-2010	64	93	64	138	184	543	41	21	3	65	608
21-Apr-2010	63	91	54	137	185	530	38	18	0	56	586
05-May-2010	62	91	54	137	185	529	35	18	0	53	582
08-Jun-2010	62	90	52	137	185	526	35	18	0	53	579
16-Jun-2010	62	81	32	137	185	497	35	17	0	53	549
23-Jul-2010	58	72	23	135	185	473	32	17	0	49	522
Sept-2010	-	36	42	-	134	212	-	18	-	18	230

2.2 Transfers

The table below shows the destination of Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 pupils who left Sneyd at the end of the 2009/10 school year.

Destination	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
2010/11 school year	Y 8	Y9	Y10
Aldridge			3
Alumwell	1		
Barr Beacon			
Blue Coat			1
Brownhills	18	16	17
Frank F Harrison			
Joseph Leckie			1
Pool Hayes			4
Queen Mary's Grammar			
Queen Mary's High			
Shire Oak			
Sneyd			
St Francis of Assisi			
St Thomas More			
Streetly			
Willenhall			3
Alternative provision			1
Grace Academy Darlaston			
Grace Academy Darlaston			2
Shelfield Academy			
Shelfield Academy			4
Walsall Academy			
Cheslyn Hay			
Cheslyn Hay			2
Deansfield			
Deansfield			1
Great Wyrley			
Great Wyrley			18
Wednesfield High			
Wednesfield High	10	20	7
Staffordshire non-attende			
Staffordshire non-attende			
Total	29	36	64

2.3 Transport

Transport arrangements have been made for the majority of Walsall pupils who have transferred to other schools at the end of Year 9. In many cases this has been through the issue of a bus pass. In the case of Brownhills, Year 9 pupils started at the school during the summer term 2010 and bus passes were issued. From September 2010, a number of these pupils are travelling on a school bus organised by the trustees and the school will receive funding towards this as bus passes are not being issued for these pupils. Other pupils are continuing to use bus passes as this is more convenient for their journey to and from Brownhills. These arrangements will be reviewed after 4 weeks.

3. Staff

Work to manage the reduction in the number of staff continued with a mix of staff who volunteered for redundancy a number of compulsory redundancies at the end of the academic year 2009/10. As previously reported a number of staff from the school were successful in finding alternative posts, with one member of staff undertaking a trial period which may lead to a successful redeployment to a post within the Council.

The process for a further reduction to take place on 31st December has commenced and HR will continue to provide support to staff. It is envisaged that the current structure will be reduced by a further 19 posts which will ensure that staffing levels are sufficient to enable delivery of the curriculum.

4. Finance

The school budget through to August 2011 remains financially viable. The new Executive Headteacher will work with the local authority to review the possible educational and financial scenarios for the final academic year of the school. Panel will be informed when this work has been completed.

5. Equipment

Although the school has produced an updated inventory they have not been able to produce a list of surplus items for disposal to other schools largely because of uncertainty about pupil numbers and the number of rooms which will need to be used in order to deliver the full curriculum. New management arrangements will be in place from September 2010 and it is expected that this will enable this to be progressed more effectively. Some items have been transferred to another secondary school in Walsall where some Sneyd pupils are receiving their teaching.

6. Standards

Key Stage Four

The provisional results for GCSE are that 27% of the young people achieved 5+ A* - C including English and maths. This is the same as last year's outturn and is still below the recommended baseline of 30%. There was good achievement in English, with weaker achievement in mathematics.

45% of young people achieved 5+ A*-C which is 4% points higher than last year.

The % achieving 5+ A*-G grades stayed the same at 83%.

50% of students achieved at least a C grade in two sciences, a 14% point increase on last year. There was a 2% point increase in those achieving at least a C grade in modern foreign languages, to 15%. Overall the uncapped APS (Average Point Score) improved by 37 points to 310, against a LA maintained school level of 395.1, or 360.8 when the three academies are included.

Key Stage Five

The provisional results for A level or equivalent are showing that 76.2% achieved 2+A-E grades which was a drop of 23.8 % points from last year. 85.7% achieved 1+A-E grade, a drop of 14.3% points from last year. The APS per candidate fell 254 points to 523.3 (LA 612.4) and the APS per entry fell 23.1 points to 158.3 (LA 185.4).

7. Management

Dr Sweeney's temporary contract ended on 31st August 2010.

A new management arrangement is now in place with Ms Leslie Clarke, Deputy Headteacher at Barr Beacon Language College, as Associate Head teacher, taking the day to day management and leadership role at Sneyd Community – A Specialist Maths and Computing College. Dame Maureen Brennan will act as Executive Head teacher across Barr Beacon Language College and Sneyd. There will be close collaboration between the two schools with joint staff training. This will strengthen the specialist and management support available at Sneyd through to closure. (The provisional GCSE results at Barr Beacon show a 16% rise to 67% of students achieving 5+A*-C including English and maths).

There is a strong partnership with Pool Hayes Arts and Community School, with Mr Jim Clarke providing the remaining Sneyd A2 students continuation of their A level studies in collaboration with Sneyd.(Provisional results for A level students at Pool Hayes show a 3.5% improvement to 97.1% of students achieving 2+ A-E grades).

8. Governance

The IEB for Sneyd continues to meet under the leadership of Stella Forsdike.

9. Press

Press release (PR 5067) "Year 9 Sneyd pupils settle into new routines" was issued to the local press on 28 July by the Council Press Office. A reporter was also present at the Children's and young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel on 20 July but disappointingly there is no evidence in the Council Press Cuttings that this positive story was taken up by reporters.

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