

Consultation results on the proposed closure of Southfield Technology College and Stainburn School and Science College and the presumption of a new academy in Workington, with pupils representing Southfield School and sixth form.

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Results of Consultation

Participant Details

- 18 Southfield pupils representing the student Council and sixth form
- Consultation date Friday 7th February 2014 12.30pm-1.30pm

How we asked the pupils for their views

The consultations began with a question and answer session lead by the pupil representatives and discussed with Partnership Development and Participation Officers from the Access and Engagement Team. The questions were collated from the queries and concerns raised by pupils when - consulted by the school council and sixth form about the proposals.

The table below provides answers to all the questions submitted during the consultation, the answers given, where appropriate, reflect the position on 7th February, and may differ from those given during the consultation event as further information became available.

All answers assume that the proposal to close both Southfield and Stainburn schools and open a new academy will be approved. **This is yet to be confirmed.**

Section1: Grasmoor House questions and answers

| Grasmoor House Questions for student council | |
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| Question(s) | Answer |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What colour will the uniform be? • What sort of uniform will be worn? • Do we have to pay for uniform? • Will we be required to wear a uniform? | <p>The academy sponsor and governing body will be responsible for determining issues around the day-to-day running of the new school such as the school uniform. It might be that the sponsor will expect future Year 7 starters to wear a new uniform.</p> <p>It is hoped that the new academy sponsor will work with students to help with ideas on how a new uniform might look.</p> <p>The design of the uniform is something that other academy sponsors have involved students in, and this can be discussed once a sponsor has been identified.</p> |
| <p>Will there be transport to the new school?</p> | <p>National guidelines say that free transport must be provided for students up to the end of Year 11 living more than 3 miles away from the new school, measured using a safe walking route.</p> <p>However, when schools are reorganised – when they close and are replaced by a new school – students in years 7 to 11 who live in the catchment area, who are attending a school at the time of its closure, and who transfer to the new catchment school, will receive free transport where the distance between home and school is more than 2 miles. This only applies if students have to go to a different site which is further from their home than the site they previously attended. So, if you have to transfer to a new site, and it's more than 2 miles from your home, free transport will be provided.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What site will we be on? • If there is a bus where will the bus stop be? • How long will the new school take to build? • Where will the new school | <p>We don't know which site the new build will be on yet. We need to do some surveys of the Southfield and Stainburn sites to see whether there's anything that would stop us from building a new school on them.</p> <p>That means checking the ground conditions to make sure they meet modern building standards, checking how level the ground is, whether it's liable to flooding, whether there are old mine shafts under the ground and so on.</p> |

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| <p>be built?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How big is the new school? | <p>The academy sponsor and the government (who are providing the money for the new school building) will consider the results from the site surveys and decide where the school will be built. Again, we'll let you know when we know more.</p> <p>Once a site has been decided upon, then the work will begin on designing the building and other things like bus stops.</p> <p>It is likely that the new school will be built to accommodate approximately 1200 students – so it'll be slightly bigger than either Southfield or Stainburn are now.</p> <p>The build of a new school could take anything up to two years.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will we have a new Head Teacher? • Are all the teachers and staff from both schools going to be there with us? | <p>We expect the majority if not all of the teachers will transfer to the academy, although some may choose to move on. If and when the schools close, all of the staff employed would transfer to the academy under the 'Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006' (TUPE for short). This protects staff jobs, but should also mean that there's continuity for students.</p> <p>On creation of the academy a new Head teacher will be appointed.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be a finger scan to pay for lunch? • How many eating areas will there be? • How many classes will there be? • Will the lessons be single or double lessons? | <p>We don't know at the moment. Most of these things will be decided later, when the new school building is being designed, and when the academy sponsor is in place.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be after school clubs? • What will the school times be? • Will the school holidays be the same? • What will the new school be called? | <p>The academy sponsor and governing body will be responsible for determining issues like this, but we would expect that there will be after-school clubs and activities in the new school.</p> <p>School holidays and times could change, but most academies use much the same holiday dates and starting/finishing times as other schools in the area.</p> <p>In other areas pupils and the public have been involved in helping to decide the new name for a school.</p> |

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| What will happen to Year 9, what will their G.C.S.E options be and will a change affect their options? | We wouldn't expect Year 9 students' option choices to be negatively affected. If anything, there may be extra options, but we would expect all current Year 9 students to be able to follow their option choices through to GCSE. |
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Section 2: Sixth form questions and answers

| Sixth Form Questions on the Academy Changes | |
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| Question | Answer |
| <p>Will someone come and talk to the students about the move?</p> | <p>We'll do all that we can to let you know what's happening, when it's happening and why it's happening. We don't have all of the answers yet, but we'll update you on how the whole process is progressing as soon as we can.</p> <p>In the meantime, Mrs Hughes, the Executive Head Teacher, has taken over the day to day running of the school until 31 December 2014 and she, or the heads of schools, will be able to talk with students.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are we all moving to (if at all)? • Will the sixth form still have our own area? Or will we be mixed? • Will the school stay ages 11-18 or will it be cut down to 11-16, as sometimes happens when schools are transferred to academies. If so what will happen to the sixth form? | <p>At the moment, we don't know. If Southfield and Stainburn close and an academy replaces them, it will have a sixth form.</p> <p>A new school will be built, probably on one of the two existing school sites, so at some point some students will have to move from their current site to the new site.</p> <p>It is likely that initially the Academy will open in both the existing school buildings on 1 January 2015, and well before that the academy sponsor will have to decide where to house the sixth form. We expect that the sponsor will discuss this with existing Southfield and Stainburn staff, and students will be told in advance where the sixth form will be located.</p> |
| <p>When will we know what is happening?</p> | <p>All the information and views that students, staff, parents and public have provided from both Stainburn and Southfield will be collated and included in the report that goes to the county council's Cabinet to enable Members to make a decision about what happens next.</p> <p>We expect the process to work like this:</p> <p>3 April: Consultation results considered and the county council's Cabinet decide whether to move to the next stage of the process, the publication of the formal notice which is required to close a school</p> <p>2 May Publication of the Statutory Notice</p> <p>30 May Closing date for responses to Statutory Notice</p> <p>24 July: A final decision will be made by the Cabinet</p> <p>31 December – Southfield and Stainburn officially close</p> |

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| | <p>1 January 2015 – New academy opens, probably using the current Southfield and Stainburn buildings.</p> <p>We expect that students won't see too many changes between now and 31 December. Any changes that are made will be designed to make sure that the schools deliver the best possible education right up until they're replaced by the academy.</p> <p>The majority of teaching and non-teaching staff will be the same, clubs and sports activities will continue as before, and we'll try to make sure that there's as little disruption as possible to your learning. If there are any changes, Mrs Hughes will make sure you know about them in advance.</p> |
| <p>Will we have the same teachers?</p> | <p>We expect the majority if not all of the teachers will transfer to the academy, although some may choose to move on. If and when the schools close, all of the staff employed would transfer to the academy under the 'Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006' (TUPE for short). This protects staff jobs, but should also mean that there's continuity for students.</p> |
| <p>What will the situation be with transportation? For example, if we move over to Stainburn how will people without cars from Salterbeck etc. get to school?</p> | <p>The council will no longer provide subsidised transport to new Post-16 students from the start of the 2014/15 academic year. Eligible students (students going in to Year 13 who fulfil the criteria for assistance) will still be offered subsidised transport. The Student Support Fund will still be available to assist with transport costs for eligible Post-16 students who fulfil the 'low income' criteria.</p> <p>Therefore, students already receiving subsidised transport will continue to do so for their 2nd year in 6th form, but students starting their 1st year of 6th form will not receive assistance with transport from the local authority unless they fulfil the 'low income' criteria.</p> <p>There is no additional 6th form student transport provided during school organisation change.</p> |
| <p>If we move to Stainburn what will they do about traffic congestion?</p> | <p>We don't know which site the new build will be on yet. We need to do some surveys of the Southfield and Stainburn sites to see whether there's anything that would stop us from building a new school on them.</p> <p>That means checking the ground conditions to make sure they meet modern building standards, checking how level the ground is, whether it's liable to flooding, whether there are old mine shafts under the ground and so on.</p> <p>The academy sponsor and the government (who are providing the money for the new school building) will consider the results</p> |

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| | <p>from the site surveys and decide. Again, we'll let you know when we know more.</p> <p>Traffic issues will form part of the survey, and we'll have to consider issues like congestion when we apply for planning permission for the new building, wherever it's located. It's possible that we'll have to do some work on the roads to reduce congestion.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it affect our education? • How will it affect the students taking January mock exams? Will students be settled enough by the time summer exams come around? Will it not disrupt the year 12 students who have just moved up to sixth form in September to move them again in January? • How do they expect us to be ready to move in less than a year when we don't even know where we are moving to? | <p>Even though the recent Ofsted reports found that both schools require Special Measures, it doesn't mean everything about the schools isn't working properly. Far from it. Ofsted found that both schools have things about them which are excellent, and we can make sure those good things are available to all of the students by bringing the schools together – we can share the good practice that's already there. At the same time, we'll also be working hard prior to the new school opening to improve the things that Ofsted found are not as good as they should be. The changes should affect your education for the better!</p> <p>The County Council would work very closely with the sponsor to make sure any disruption is kept to an absolute minimum. Whilst we want to bring about changes and improvements quickly, we do recognise that the education of students already attending the two schools is the most important factor we need to think about, and we will do everything we can to make sure that through this period of change, they are supported to reach their full educational potential.</p> <p>In terms of a physical move to another site, we're expecting that initially both existing schools' buildings will be used. So we wouldn't expect too much movement in January 2015, although we'll need to discuss that in more detail with the sponsor.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be student parking? • Will sixth form trips which are currently being organised for next year, but not yet booked, still go ahead? • Will we still have our tablets? If so, what will be the situation with the Wi-Fi at the chosen location? | <p>Initially, not much should change. If you have tablets now, we would expect you to have them on 1 January 2015, when the new academy is due to open.</p> <p>The resources will stay in school, and it's possible there will also be new ones. We wouldn't expect access to things like printing facilities to change, although we can't be certain of that yet.</p> <p>The fingerprint system will probably remain in use, but the academy sponsor will make decisions about leaving the site at lunch and break times and student parking.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will happen to the current resources (books, IT, etc)? • Will we have access to printing? • Will we be able to leave site at break and lunch? • Will we still have the fingerprint system in the canteen? | <p>If there are trips arranged or being arranged now, we expect these will go ahead as planned – we all want to make sure your education isn't disrupted.</p> |
| <p>Will the academy sponsor be focused on the education and well-being of students, or more on profit?</p> | <p>The academy sponsor is likely to be a non-profit educational charity.</p> <p>The sponsor will be expected to provide high quality education. If they fail to do that, they could be removed by the government. So it's in the best interests of a sponsor to make sure they offer the best possible educational opportunities to students.</p> |

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Section 3: Pupils thoughts and feelings.

The participants split into small groups of 3-4 members, each group was given a few minutes to discuss what their thoughts and feelings were about the proposals. The groups were asked to finish the sentence "If I had my way my school would...." after a few minutes they shared their thoughts with the whole group. Here is the complete list of recorded answers (they are not in any particular order).

- If I had my way my school would start everything from scratch on a completely new site.
- If I had my way my school would run as smooth as possible next year for my final year.
- If I had my way my school would be the same
- If I had my way my in my school everything would go smoothly as possible, we would have the same teaching staff as currently with as little of a change a possible.

Section: 4 any other comments:

The groups were also asked if they had any other comments they wished to share, below are their comments:

- I chose to come here I didn't want to go anywhere else.
- I don't mind what happens.
- If there was an academy it takes away the choices about schools.
- In the end a school is a school so I suppose it doesn't matter.
- If it does happen we need to have a couple of days together before we merge, this should be done year group by year group.
- Do we have a choice it doesn't feel like I do?