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Executive Principal: Geoff Pettengell

Parent Consultation Meeting  
Mount Pleasant Primary School – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015

15 parents in attendance

GDP began the meeting by apologising to parents for how details of the consultation were relayed to them.

Q: Do we get to vote on the leadership team?

A: The Headteacher will be announced after the Easter holidays. The Headteacher and GDP will select the leadership team. There will be some redundancies and that will impact on the leadership teams. There will be members of staff within the leadership team who will volunteer for redundancy/early retirement so we do not envisage making compulsory redundancies.

Q: How many staff will make up the leadership team?

A: There will be a Headteacher, a Deputy Head, 4 Assistant Heads and a Director which is a smaller team than we have in the 2 schools currently.

Q: Current Year 6 will be the last intake to the two schools. How will they become involved in extra-curricular activities?

A: Current Year 6 students will be attending the school of their choice and we will support them as best as we can, this will include them being involved in extra-curricular activities.

Q: What about food issues/provision? Will they still have choices?

A: There will be no issues with food provision. Food will be provided just as it is now. One option could be to transport food from one site to the other.

Q: Would students have the choice to move across the expanding site if they wanted to?

A: Yes, we would be happy to do that.

Q: When would the new uniform be needed?

A: We will be re-branding in September 2016. We would engage with parents and students about the uniform. We will keep costs down as far as possible. Reality is that it probably won't look very different to what schools already have.

Year 7 in September 2016 would be in the new uniform. Year 11 would remain in their existing uniforms. There will be some flexibility over when the new uniform is introduced for existing students.

Q: Is the first proposal very unlikely?

A: It started off being very likely but it has been informed by what people have said at the consultation meetings. We need to do something from September 2016 but how we do it is why we are going through the consultation process with stakeholders. The majority of stakeholders do not like the first proposal as they are not in favour of the additional transition. They do however like the idea of one school and the name Shrewsbury Academy.

Q: When will you decide what's happening?

A: The Task Group meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 and will present their findings to the Trust Board towards the end of that week. A decision should be made by the end of the term. The Trust Board then have to request the permission of the Department of Education – Education Funding Agency (EFA). We have to provide financial forecasts going into the future. The alternative proposals have bigger financial implications in the first instance. The EFA have to agree these changes and I am concerned that we may struggle to get their approval in time for the admissions process to begin. The Admissions Team of the Local Authority have to be notified of the decision by the end of June 2015.

Q: Do you still want one new building?

A: Yes but we have to rely on being able to bid for money. Unfortunately Academies are not allowed to borrow money, if they were we would be happy to do this to facilitate a new build.

When we start to initially develop one site with one or two demountables we would still submit bids for funding. However, over a period of 4 years or so we would need to invest in refurbishment of the site and additional money would have to be spent on this. There will come a time where we have invested money into developing one of the 2 sites and a point of no return will be reached and we will stick with what we have.

Q: Is one site better than the other?

A: Whilst we have been unsuccessful in our bid for a new school there are other pots of money that we are able to bid for to refurbish existing school structures. We have been successful in securing a new roof and new windows for the existing Sundorne School and that work will be going ahead over the course of the next few months. It has been delayed slightly so that it does not interfere with the education of the students.

We are currently waiting to hear about another bid which has been submitted for The Grange School in respect of refurbishment for the Art Block.

Q: Are the changing rooms big enough to accommodate all the students?

A: Timetables can be arranged so that not all students do PE at the same time eg half the year group could do PE and the other half of the year group could do a different subject.

Q: The set up at Sundorne School is very different to that at The Grange. How will the two come together?

A: In terms of ability groupings the philosophy is the same it's just organised slightly different. The Grange groupings are arranged individually in each of the core subjects – English, Maths and Science. Sundorne groups have been set up so that students will be in the same groups for Maths and Science. It is envisaged that from September 2015 the groupings will become the same across the two schools.

Q: What about curriculum subject differences?

A: Relatively few differences between the two schools. The Grange has the vocational provision but some Sundorne students already attend the Grange for those subjects. We hope to have a broader curriculum across the one school.

Q: What would happen with vocational subjects?

A: The plan hasn't been developed and agreed but my own personal thoughts are that specialist provision will stay as it is as it would be expensive to move.

Q: So you plan to keep the vocational block at The Grange?

A: I am saying this is how it could work. We could keep one block for vocational subjects.

Q: What about the "baby boom"?

A: There will be a slight peak in respect of the intake for September 2015 but we have now been advised that the expected "baby boom" is not likely to occur until 2020/2021. We are also being advised that the "baby boom" will not hit the north of the town as much as the south and south-west which will cause a huge issue for Shropshire Council.

Q: Where will the new build be?

A: When we bid for funding it is based on a new build but until we are successful we are not able to find a suitable site/location. The first thing we would need to identify is where the site would be located but we cannot do this until we have secured a successful bid.

Q: How will you communicate your decision?

A: We will put it on our website and also text and tweet information out to parents. When a decision is made by the Board we will discuss how best to communicate the decision. We may issue letters but you have to appreciate that these can be delayed in the post through no fault of our own.