



Shrewsbury Academies Trust
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Executive Principal: Geoff Pettengell

Parent Consultation Meeting
The Grange School 5th March 2015

23 parents in attendance

Parents advised that the consultation period has been extended up to and including Friday 20th March 2015.

GDP advised that his intention is still to organise the changes with the minimum disruption and to take as many people with him as possible. He wants the best possible outcomes for the students and the least amount of disruption to the education of our children.

Q: Should one of the sites be developed to accommodate all students, will they stay on one site?

A: Yes they will apart from small option groups.

Q: Will you let us know what your recommendation to the Board is going to be?

A: You will be advised about the report findings.

Q: Is my child going to encounter adversity in her first year as it would seem that Sundorne School don't want Grange students on their site?

A: GDP advised that we have over 100 students working across both sites currently without any issues at all.

Q: Would it help if we wrote to our MPs to request funding?

A: Yes it would obviously help. It would be great if you were able to do that. GDP to write to parents asking for their support and to provide contact details. Letter to be issued on the websites and texts sent home.

Q: Sundorne School is a Sports College but they do not have the facilities for fixtures. The Grange School has the facilities – why can't these be used?

A: Very fair point – sports facilities at The Grange site are great! If this is something you feel strongly about please feedback on the Stakeholder Questionnaire.

Q: What is "The Board"?

A: Shrewsbury Academies Trust Board is responsible for schools within the Trust. The Board is made up of a range of people, including the Chair of Governors from each of the four member schools, who are responsible and accountable for the finances and successes of the schools. GDP is employed by them to run the organisation and to maximise student performance.

Q: Are the Trust Board going to listen to what is being said or are they going to make a decision regardless of what people think or say?

A: GDP and the Board are very aware that they need to listen to what stakeholders are saying. They will make an informed decision based on the findings of the consultation. The alternative proposals put forward may be more expensive initially and will need to be incorporated into the Shrewsbury Academies Trust Business Plan and approval sought from the Education Funding Agency.

Q: Has the initial proposal been abolished?

A: No. The original proposal is still being consulted on together with the alternative proposals that have been suggested through the parent consultation meetings.

Q: Is the main objective to get a new build?

A: Yes but we can only bid for money when it becomes available. We don't know when we will have the opportunity to submit further bids so we have to look at alternative ways forward. The sale of both sites would not create sufficient funds for a new school. Once we start to develop one site and put up more than the odd mobile classroom ie we build a new block in 3 or 4 years' time we will reach a point where we would not be considered for a whole new school. GDP advised that he is confident both sites, with some development, would have the capacity to house all students.

Q: Does The Grange Sports Centre belong to the Council?

A: The Sports Centre is a subsidiary company of the Shrewsbury Academies Trust. Mr Hatch is working very hard to ensure sports facilities are kept and is looking at ways of making sure that continues.

Q: Where did the initial proposal come from?

A: The initial proposal came from the Shrewsbury Academies Trust Board after discussing a range of options to look at the current financial situation. The proposal was always going to be subject to stakeholder consultation.

We have been a bit surprised that parents would prefer to move to one site rather than a split site but it has clearly caused a lot of concern.

Q: We are still concerned about students getting from one site to the other? Will you promise transport will be provided?

A: The guarantee is there that transport will be provided at the start and end of the school day.

Q: Will notes from the meetings be provided to parents?

A: Question and answers from meetings will be posted on school and SAT websites. Texts and tweets will be issued to parents once they've been posted.

Q: How will you let us know about the outcome of the consultation?

A: When a decision is made by the Board we will discuss how best to communicate the decision. The first group to be informed will be staff and parents. It will be made clear that staff are not to say anything to students. I guarantee that staff and parents will know first and I will endeavour to share everything simultaneously.

Information will be put on the websites and texts and tweets will be issued to let you know when it's available. We may issue letters but you have to appreciate that these can be delayed in the post through no fault of our own.

Q: Will you make sure that students understand the changes. Students need to hear the information from staff and be given the reassurances they need about transition?

A: Communication to students is very important. Parents and staff will know in the first instance through text and social media. Students will be spoken to after the Easter holidays. We may advise students of the outcome through form tutors and will reassure them that there is nothing for them to worry about.

Q: Can you start to build positive relationships with Year 7 students in both schools by holding joint activities – something along the lines of the School Games?

A: This is a great idea and certainly an avenue that we can look at. There is a ski trip taking place over the Easter holidays where both The Grange and Sundorne students will be interacting together.

Parents were thanked for attending the meeting and for their involvement in the consultation process.

Meeting closed at 7.10 pm