

**SEN Review Consultation Meeting with Staff – 10 November 2008
at Belstead School at 4.10 pm.**

Present: Allan Cadzow, Area Director (South)
Sue Chesworth, Headteacher Belstead School
Georgina Green, Area Manager, SEN
Sandy Ranson, Senior Adviser, Inclusion and Additional Needs
Cheryl Sharland, Head of Integrated Services
Jane Sheat, Senior HR Manager (Schools)
Kate Thomas, Programme Manager for the SEN Review
Nicky Fisk, note-taker

The purpose of the meeting was to present stage 2 of the Consultation of the SEN Review to staff of Belstead School. A presentation was given including:

- Why the local authority is reorganising schools
- The local context/background
- The proposal/options for the school and the area.
- How stakeholders can have a say during the consultation period

The consultation process started on the 22 September and finishes on 15 December 2008.

Why Now?

- The next phase of Building Schools for the Future Programme would enable us to improve facilities at Special Schools.
- We would be able to build on the successful models we have in place.
- Learning is at the core of integrated services.

There are three options for the Southern Area plus options for county wide resources for pupils with severe dyslexia, high level autism and significant social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Q. Will Thomas Wolsey be known as Thurleston or Thomas Wolsey?

A. They will be known as Thomas Wolsey. Being on one site allows for flexibility, breaking down barriers and equal value and respect for all our children.

Q. When will be the decision be made about the school and the new Headteacher?

A. The consultation ends on 15 December 2008 and a paper goes to Cabinet in January 2009 for a decision by March 2009. The Building Schools for the Future project is underway and there will not be a new building for about 5 years.

Q. SWISS are becoming a trust school, if Heathside closes to Belstead, Heathside are not part of SWISS.

A. If Belstead amalgamate with Heathside, the school could become a Foundation school and be part of SWISS trust or become part of the trust on the Westbourne High School site. It is a decision for the Governing Body about trust status, i.e. Foundation school but associated partner to SWISS trust or Westbourne High School trust. There is an opportunity for staff, governors and parents to have this discussion.

Q. If all age school there will not be an effective change at age 11. No transition, is it detrimental to the children?

A. It comes down to the organisation within the school and something that will need thinking through along with building solutions.

Q. What will happen at break/social times?

A. Thomas Wolsey will still have their areas, there needs to be a balance of a protected and joining together area. Thurleston High School students want an area where they can mix with Thomas Wolsey students.

Q. Non teaching staff are not represented at this meeting. What is the future for them? What will happen regarding SWISS and the merger of the schools? What structures are in place and support for staff?

A. Belstead school is well prepared for SWISS and changes this throws up. We can look at learning from SOR for support staff. There is likely to be efficiencies made with teaching assistants and administrative staff.

- SWISS opens in 2010 and will take half of the pupils from Belstead. We will work with Headteachers and Chair of Governors of both schools to plan the staffing structure. We will look at ring-fencing posts to safeguard jobs with opportunities to apply for posts. A lot will depend on the option chosen.
- BSF money allows us to open a new site in approximately 2013 and this is a big change for staff and support staff. One of the changes will be the location, this is a long way ahead and will be planned for.

Jane Sheat suggested having a suggestion box in the staff room and send into Kate Thomas.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm.