
Select Committee on Children's Services – 11th November, 2010

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Update Report on Pensnett Education Campus

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the progress of the Pensnett Education Campus.

Background

Teaching and Learning

2. The timetable is running smoothly and the majority of lessons students are being taught by subject specialists.
3. A number of Advanced Skills Teacher's, in a variety of subjects, are helping staff to ensure that the standards of teaching and learning remain high.
4. Performance management will be carried out with staff to ensure a consistent approach. A member of staff from the Local Authority has been attached to the school in order to maintain appropriate levels of Continuation of Professional Development are taking place and that staff are being supported when applying for posts externally.
5. Staff are currently on 1 Year contracts and there will undoubtedly be some turbulence as staff apply for posts outside the school during the year.
6. We are currently looking at the timetable and staffing requirements for September 2011 in order to give some additional security to some staff and a more realistic time scale to others.
7. Since there will only be approximately 50 students on site at that time it will be beneficial for everyone that the necessary staffing reductions are carried out as soon as possible.

Student Progress

8. The school should be proud of the performance of students in terms of the August Examination results, the 'above floor' scores were the product of hard work and effort from staff and students alike.
9. Detailed projections of the performance of students are currently being scrutinised. The first data trawl to establish the progress of students took place on 15th October, this will be followed by a Staff meeting to establish the necessary set changes and support groups to help students reach their targets. One to one additional tuition and specialist intervention groups are underway in Maths and English and further resource has been found to extend this approach.
10. At present, examination entries are being set up under the existing school arrangements leading to students sitting their final examinations on the Pensnett site as normal. Whole school data on student progression will be provided in this section as the term progresses.

Student Behaviour

11. The behaviour of students has been good to date, with a dramatic reduction in fixed term exclusions. There have been no permanent exclusions to date.
12. The school is working hard with students to ensure they benefit from the systems that have been put in place for their care and support. The school has given an unused room to students as a base and they are respecting this facility.

Other Matters

13. Initial meetings have been held with staff from our KS3/4 Short Stay School Service to develop the systems necessary to ensure Pensnett year 10/11 and the Short Stay School Service can work effectively together. This will also ensure that the levels of accountability are appropriate to both management teams and that where necessary the Instruments of Governance are changed.
14. The Short Stay School Behaviour Policy will be discussed at the next Pensnett Campus Management meeting in order to ensure that students are being dealt with under the same system so that appeals against judgements are able to be heard equitably by parallel systems. There have been discussions regarding the level of

Education Welfare Officer support for the Pensnett site and a route has been found for any necessary referrals.

15. A Parent Group is being set up and the level of support interest shown in the school has been very impressive. The initial meeting will take place in the first week after half term. This group will remain as a consistent element to give senior staff a parental view of the progress of the school in all aspects. These meetings will be regular and formal, with issues included in this report where necessary.
16. The existing Self Evaluation Form will be amended to suit the new circumstances, and also to bring it in line with new Ofsted requirements.

Student Enrichment Activities

17. Lunchtime and after school clubs are running, and the student reward system is fully in place. A Connexions service office has been established.
18. In terms of individual subjects there are specific motivational activities taking place in Maths and Drama, a well received 'Inspire' event and a forthcoming school trip. West Bromwich Albion (WBA) Foundation are delivering a range of student based activities.
19. At time of writing, the staff and students on the Pensnett site have set about their tasks with impressive gusto, creating a calm and purposeful atmosphere.

Finance

20. The funding for the Pensnett school provision from 1 September 2010 is a charge against the Dedicated Schools Budget. Due to the number of pupils on roll, the monitoring of the budget is being carefully managed with the Centre Leader and reported through to the Acting Director of Children's Services on a monthly basis in line with all other Directorate budgets.

Law

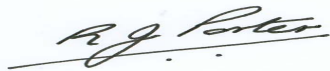
21. This report relates to Cabinet approval for the discontinuance of Pensnett High School from 31st August 2010 in accordance with Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of the Schools) (England) Regulations 2007.

Equality Impact

22. This report takes into account the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Recommendations

23. That the Select Committee receive the report and note the progress made with the Pensnett Education Campus



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