



Children & Young People's Directorate
Blackfriars, PO Box 185
Blackfriars Street
Hereford
HR4 9ZR

**Proposal under Section 15 (1) of the
Education & Inspections Act 2006**

to discontinue

Wyebriidge Sports College

Stanberrow Road
Hereford
HR2 7NG

On 31st August 2008

Contact:
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Objective of the proposal

A decision to close Wyebridge Sports College is a pre-requisite to the approval of the Secretary of State to establish the Hereford Academy from 1st September 2008, on the site currently occupied by Wyebridge Sports College.

Consultation

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal have been complied with and the details of the consultation are provided in Annexe 1.

Effect on Standards and Diversity

Wyebridge Sports College serves wards which are in the bottom 20% in the country in terms of deprivation. Under strong leadership, the school has made consistent progress in the past seven years improving five GCSE pass rates from just over ten percent to 52 percent. Although the right learning atmosphere has been created with improved teaching and learning, the building is in need of major capital investment. The establishment of an academy will allow this to happen and create the conditions to help a continued improvement in standards.

Herefordshire does not have an academy currently. The establishment of an academy will increase the diversity of educational provision available.

Need for places

A recent review of the provision of school places has confirmed falling secondary school rolls which are expected to reduce from 10215 (September 06) to 9380 (September 2011). The longer term suggests that there will be a continued fall to 2020 before rising to a peak again in 2030. The fall is not evenly spread across the county, with the fall in Hereford City being less dramatic than elsewhere. Indeed, the South Wye area is the only area of the County where the number of those under the age of 16 is actually increasing. An average of around 290 children per year group live in the catchment area served by Wyebridge Sports College. Traditionally, a proportion of children in the catchment area opt to attend alternative schools. It is proposed that The Hereford Academy will offer 900 places for pupils aged 11 – 16, and have an admission number of 180. This is the same number of 11 – 16 places offered currently by Wyebridge Sports College. It is proposed that the age range of the academy is increased from 11 - 16 to 11 - 19, offering places for 220 post 16 students at the start of the academic year following completion of the new building. It is anticipated that this will be the academic year 2011/2012.

Current School Information

Source: January 2008 PLASC

Number on roll = 387 girls + 316 boys = 703. The school does not provide any residential places.

Of the above pupils, 232 are identified as having a special educational need - 60 pupils are on School Action, 144 pupils are on School Action Plus and 28 pupils have a statement of special educational need.

Displaced Pupils

Pupils will transfer from Wyebridge Sports College to The Hereford Academy. Admission may also be sought to other schools which have places available.

Impact on the Community

This proposal will have a positive impact on the community by making way for the establishment of the Hereford Academy, in buildings fit for 21st Century teaching and learning, to serve the community from the current Wyebridge Sports College site.

Details of extended services the school offers and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

The following extended services are currently offered at Wyebridge Sports College. Info-zone, which provides drop-in advice for children and young people and access to health staff; a breakfast club; after school clubs till 4.30 pm – art, music, ICT, drama; family learning ICT access; and school grounds are open outside school hours to benefit the community.

It is expected that academies, and in this case the Hereford Academy, will be at the heart of the community and will work with all local stakeholders, including pupils, to ensure that extended services, valued by stakeholders, are maintained. The Hereford Academy will provide an opportunity to consider other extended services, in consultation with stakeholders.

Travel

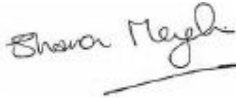
Existing arrangements for the provision of transport will continue for those entitled pupils transferring from Wyebridge Sports College to The Hereford Academy. The proposal will seek to work against increased car use by locating the Academy on the existing Wyebridge Sports College site, which is central to the catchment area.

Related Proposals

The establishment of an Academy is subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State. It is proposed that the closure of Wyebridge Sports College should be approved to take effect only if by the date of closure an agreement has been made under section 482(1) of the Education Act 1996 for the establishment of an academy to replace Wyebridge Sports College.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the Schools Planning & Access Manager, Herefordshire Council, Children & Young People's Directorate, Blackfriars, PO Box 185, Blackfriars Street, Hereford HR4 9ZR .

Signed:



Sharon Menghini
Director of Children's Services

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