

APPENDIX I

Consultation with students on the proposal to close St Bede's Catholic Science College and expand Haven High Technology College

Held at the college on Friday 11 February 2011

Present: School Councillors
Mr A Reed (Executive Headteacher)
Mrs J Salmon (Head of School)
Mrs P Champion (Executive Headteacher's PA)

Why is St Bede's closing?

The Government looks at school results and performances over a period of time and for a number of years St Bede's has been a low performing school. Young people at St Bede's should be given every chance to be successful hence the proposal.

What does Bede's closing mean and are all the students going to come here?

St Bede's will no longer exist as a school.

Will all the students come here?

No. We haven't got the space.

Why can't we just say as a Federation it would be a lot easier?

The Government has decided the school has got to close

Why does the Haven High have to expand?

Haven High is seen by the LA as a successful school and proved we have a good record of improvement

Will HH close for a while more holidays?

No

When will all this happen?

This will happen from September. St Bedes will close and all students become part of Haven High. They will carry on going to that site for as long as they wish from 7 – 11. However some may take the opportunity to move onto this site but it is their choice. No Haven High pupils will be moving to the St Bedes' site.

What if we don't want this expansion to happen

If students don't want it they can say via the website at LCC as part of the consultation process.

Will the move protect St Bede's and not us? St Bede's have a bad report and poor grades. What are Haven High getting out of it?

Mr Reed takes responsibility for the Federation having opportunities and doing well. Only fair that children from St Bede's should get the same deal. What students will get out of it is they will be part of something bigger. Mr Reed will make sure students benefit.

How many Y7 students will be coming to Haven High next year?

ARd is negotiating with LA. There are currently 160 in Y7 but we only have a 135 PAN (Pupil Admission Number)

There will be around 200 new Y7's and they will all be coming here in September

St Bede's will eventually will be our lower school site (Y7, 8 and 9)

Another 4 mobile classrooms will be arriving for September to accommodate extra students, however because of this we will have to lose the outside food unit where one will be placed. The other will be placed near the Art room.

Money will be spent in the summer to update and modernise our dining room

Eventually the St Bede's site will have to be extended.

Will we have a new School uniform?

No. St Bede's are going to vote to see if they want to keep their uniform or if they want to have HH uniform.

Will students get free uniform?

To lessen the financial burden for parents of St Bede's students, ARd will provide 2 polo shirts and sweatshirt for each child

Can we take this opportunity to change our uniform?

Y11's have the opportunity to be a prefect and have a coloured sweatshirt. Students voted for this uniform a few years ago. Some students have said recently that they would like shirts ties and blazers. No big changes would be made without consulting the students.

Would the time of the school day change?

This would only change at St Bedes.

What is the view of Bedes' students on the closure?

Students are naturally concerned about the changes this will bring, however the more they hear, the more excited they are becoming.

Will they be coming here?

Some students may decide to join the upper school, depending on the options they choose.

Could they go to other schools in the area?

Yes they could but they are a distance away.

Will we have to go to Bede's for lessons?

Students at Haven High will not need to go to the St Bede's site for anything

If parents from Bede's ask can their children transfer over here?

Yes. Some have already done this.

Will our class sizes go up?

No. There will be more classes in each year group.

Will form groups be split?

No

Can Bede's students stay if they want?

Yes

Will we have new teachers here?

This happens all the time.

Will some be from St Bedes?

Yes. There may well be

Do we want them here as they are a failing school?

ARd will ensure high quality staff are employed

Will there be more sports and music facilities?

If there are more children there will be more classes. There is no comparison between facilities here and those at St Bede's

We are extending the hall at Haven to give more storage and bigger stage

There will be more toilets and cameras.

Will there be more tech rooms ?

No

Will there be more equipment?

Yes

Will there be more choice in the dining room ?

Yes

Will food be more expensive?

No

Will mixing students affect behaviour?

Would hope not.

What if we have chosen HH because of the bullying that goes on at St Bedes?

St Bede's asked the same about here. There is a policy that deals with bullying and support for the bullied.

Will students from St Bede's be CAT tested?

Yes

Will there be two Haven High Schools in Boston?

It will be one Technology College based on two sites which may be referred to as a campus.

Difference in facilities – St Bede's will be improved to reflect years

Why can't HH be built and made bigger?

The BSF (Building Schools for the Future) plan has been scrapped due to the country's financial troubles.

Will there be more staff on duty and more SLT?

Yes

Will we have to do more RE?

No. St Bede's will no longer be a Catholic School and will not have 2 hours a week RE unless they want to.

Will options here change?

No

Will teachers treat Bede's student any differently?

No

Will Bede's staff lose their jobs?

Mr Reed will have to plan how many teachers and support staff he will need over the two schools. He will maintain and keep the best staff over two schools

What will happen to our grades – poor grades St Bedes

Nothing. Results will be based on the work each individual pupil puts in

There are a lot of EAL students at Bedes - will they get more support?

This isn't anything new and there are less at St Bedes than here

Do we have to follow their Catholic ethos?

No

Will this change our school ethos?

No

Will we see more or less of Mr Reed?

Mr Reed tries to be on every site every day and will continue to walk around the classrooms as he does now.

As we are rivals in sports will this have an effect on sports teams?

Yes because this will mean we will have the best from both sites who will be part of one team

Money is being spent to purchase 4 new mini buses for the Federation to transport children.

Will our logo change?

No

Will there be any change to our vocational centres?

No

Will there be more disabled facilities?

No

Will there be a bigger IEC?

Depends on behaviour

The Council asked if we could have the slush puppy machine back and new vending machines?

Mrs Champion will talk to Mrs Thompson about this.

Will there be a joint School Council?

Yes

Will parents move students from HH because they are unhappy with the merger?

Don't know.

Have the public near the two sites been consulted?

Yes via a consultation meeting

Will the car park cope with number of staff and parents?

By operating over two sites this shouldn't be a problem

Will the change have an effect on pupil/teacher relationships and will this change when students come over here at Y9?

There will be no split classes - same teacher for same subject

Will it be more dangerous on the road?

Make sure that students are all sensible

Where is St Bede's?

Tollfield Road

Is there going to be a VI form?

There may be room for this when Y9, 10 and 11 are here.

Is it true that this is being done to give Mr Reed more power?

No. Mr Reed was approached by all the other schools in the Federation to give them support.

**Consultation with students on the closure of St Bede's Catholic Science College
and the expansion of Haven High Technology College.**

Meeting of St Bede's College Council
Thursday 10 February 2011 at 1.45pm

In attendance: Mr A Reed, (Executive Headteacher), Mr J Amaral, (Head of School, St Bede's)
Mrs J Gale, Mrs P Champion (Executive Headteacher's PA)

Councillors responsible for feeding back to forms.

Uniform:

If we stay on St Bede's site do we have the option to wear HH uniform. Discuss what uniform will be worn, will still need a tie and will school pay for any uniform changes.

Students will decide this. The HH uniform was designed by students when we became a technology college.

It can be kept or can be changed but there will not be two different uniforms.

A show of hands indicated that most of the younger students would wish to change to a sweatshirt and polo shirt.

If there is a majority of students wishing to change the uniform then Mr Reed meet the cost of providing 2 polo shirts and a sweatshirt for students to lessen the expense for parents. Mr Reed will write to parents informing them of this.

Options

I live too far from Haven High. How can I get to school if I want to study Options at HH? What can I study at KS4?

Haven High students choose options in Y8 and start GCSE's in Y9 dropping the subjects they don't like and start new courses giving them 3 years to do options instead of 2. This results in 5 option blocks, with 5 subjects to do over 3 years. Mr Reed compared the options at St Bede's with the ones offered at Haven, with the choices being far more extensive at Haven.

Year 9's will have more choices as staff from HH will come over here to teach the subjects.

Opportunities will be shared over the site with a much broader range of subjects.

Mr Reed explained that any students wishing to do vocational subjects based at Haven High will have the choice as to whether they want to move onto the Haven Site in order to do this.

Looking at Y9 students from St Bede's picking options over the next few weeks, holding special sessions.

Behaviour

Students are worried that behaviour problems won't be dealt with in a larger school.

Mr Reed said that the behaviour at St Bede's is terrible compared to behaviour of students at HH. He did not wish this to come across as nasty but went on to explain that Ofsted picked up on the poor behaviour during their recent inspection.

Good children are rewarded for good behaviour but on the whole behaviour within the college has got to improve.

Bullying issues if mixing with Haven High

Mr Reed said that there are bullying issues in every school but HH have systems that deal with the bullying and have support in place for the bullied.

Will the behaviour system change?

The behaviour and rewards system are now the same in both schools.

There will be a system put in place where parents can access information from the website. This will happen from September. Parents will be able to access behaviour, homework set and when handed in, if their child is late to lessons and even what they have had for dinner!

What is to stop HH students alienating us when we go to HH?

A few students going to HH already thought that they had been alienated. It is possible at the moment that both sets are suspicious of each other and it is quite probable that students at HH think the same. This feeling will be broken down the more we do together.

Are rules going to change? HH students can't have flowers in their hair and we can!

St Bede's students are allowed to get away with a lot more than HH students, including the wearing of jewellery and trainers.

Students at HH work in isolation if they come in trainers or have piercings that can be seen. Things will be stricter.

Do we have the option to stay at St Bedes or to move to HH at any point in our school life?

Yes. This can be done but this will not be enforced.

Mr Reed will honour any choices

What will happen to the Catholic Ethos when the schools amalgamate?

If the school closes it will no longer be a catholic school. Around 37% of the students here have a catholic faith, although it is not known how many parents go to the catholic church. For those children who want to carry on with the catholic schemes of work and have two lessons a week can continue but this will be an option and won't be forced on anybody.

Will there be a transfer between schools for teachers and students for lessons?

Yes. This will continue with teachers from HH coming over to Bede's to teach subjects on both sites with movement time built in.

Explained that there is no movement time at St Bede's as there is at HH to allow students to get to lessons on time.

Will school still finish at the same time?

To have as many options we will have to share the teachers. This can't be done if the school day remains the same. Consultation with parents will take place to change the school day timings.

Will HH facilities be available to St Bede's students?

Yes. These are being used now.

Will there be transport?

Transport will be provided for students choosing to do subject on the HH site

ICT days are being planned for St Bede's students to go to HH as there is no ICT teacher at St Bede's

Will class sizes get bigger?

Probably.

Will classes be mixed?

All of the new Year 7 will be on Haven site as they will not fit on St Bede's site, with the remainder working their way through.

Eventually the St Bede's site will cater for Y7 and Y8 students, with Y9, 10 and 11 students going to Haven. This will take 3-4 years.

Will the name change?

If the school closes St Bede's will not exist and it will become HH although extended to this site. A decision will be made as to what the site will be called.

Will St Bede's be forgotten?

The name will go because the school is going to close. This is a decision the Government has made.

Will there be an alternative catholic school?

Not in Boston but there is one in Lincoln.

Mr Reed has no control over the catholic diocese

Will any more buildings be built?

This will happen at some point in the future.

Changes will be made to the technology block so that all D&T subjects can be studied

Will we get any more laptops in Technology?

Definitely yes. More computers have already been purchased to be ready for after half term. New server systems will be put into place.

What will happen with the stage.?

Mr Reed has requested that this be cleared. Students are welcome to go to Haven to use the stage there.

Will we have more lessons, for example PE?

This will stay the same

Thumb scanners will be in place for September

Mr Reed explained about the CCTV system in place at Haven especially with bikes going missing and students accidentally setting off fire alarms which are all covered by cameras. HH also have a tannoy system which will be put in place on the St Bede's site.

Will HH do Rock Challenge?

Yes, if St Bede's students wish this to happen.

Why are we closing?

The results at the school over a number of years have not been good enough.

Will HH be based on two sites?

Yes

Will St Bede's staff be sacked or made redundant?

Decide what staff will be needed and any additional staff.

Mr Reed said that staffing would be looked at over both sites. Not just St Bede's staff

Will we still have a house system?

This will be discussed and a decision made on the students based here.

Will homework projects stay?

Yes

Will headteachers change at both sites?

No.

St Bede's are already part of the Witham School's Federation. A Head of school will be in charge of each site. One Executive Head who oversees all the schools.

Will we get more clubs?

Yes. This is possible with longer lunchtimes

Will every year get a common room?

No space at the moment.

Every year group will get their own space where they can sit at lunchtimes.
Look at possibility of Y11 common room on Bede's site like the Loft

Will there be a two week timetable?

Yes

Will we have the same teachers?

Yes

Can't we join with another school?

Mr Reed asked who they would like to join with instead of HH. Students were unanimous that they wished to join with HH

Could any improvements be made instead of closing?

This is part of consultation which we are still in the process of

Why are things changing so quickly?

Mr Reed said that St Bede's students had had a poor deal for too long. Not enough choices, not enough equipment or opportunities to do different things.

Will catering be extended?

Yes

Will security be improved?

Yes

Behaviour at HH has improved as a result

No cameras will be put in the toilets but there will be cameras outside the toilets.

What will happen to the students work, eg Y11 artwork?

Some of this will be displayed around the school

Will the hall be decorated?

Yes. New chairs have been purchased already

Will we have to do our exams again?

No

Will the merge mean better sports facilities?

Yes

Will HH staff be here for the rest of the school year?

Yes

Will there be more classrooms?

Yes

Can we have Mr Pocklington back?

Mr Pocklington chose to leave

Can we have our own prom?

Yes, if that's what students want.

Can we have a coffee machine?

Yes

Will my password change on computer?

No

Will certificates be presented?

Yes

Where will Open evenings take place?

At both schools

Will there be VI form provision?

Possibly