

A PROPOSAL FOR EXPLORATION

A Plan for Education in Northern Brentwood developed by the Governors & Headteachers of Sawyers Hall College & Shenfield High School

‘Shenfield High School and Community Campus’

1.1 Pupil numbers at Sawyers Hall College are declining. The Headteacher and Governors of Sawyers Hall want to remove uncertainties now surrounding the College, (that have already been exacerbated by the local press) to ensure the future of Sawyers Hall pupils is secure and to create wider opportunities for young people in Brentwood.

1.2 Shenfield High School will work closely with Sawyers Hall College from September 2009 and the two organisations will form the Shenfield High School and Community Partnership from no later than April 2010, which will protect current students of Sawyers Hall College from the effects of the inevitable, eventual closure.

1.3 Sawyers Hall and Shenfield High School Governors have together developed a vision for the reorganisation of education on the Sawyers Hall site that will serve to increase learning opportunities and provide greater access to learning resources and facilities for the entire Brentwood community whilst maintaining and extending the high educational standards for an enlarged Shenfield High School.

1.4 The vision is for:

- The provision of a higher quality environment in Shenfield High School on its existing site at Alexander Lane, building upon its high standards and inclusive philosophy.
- The establishment of a variety of aspects of community learning on the Sawyers Hall site developed alongside the College as it meets its obligations to current pupils.
- The establishment, in due course, of a Community Campus under the direction, leadership and management of Shenfield.

1.5 It is imperative for the pupils of both organisations that the highest educational standards are provided under strong leadership and governance and that the widest range of opportunities are offered on both sites to our pupils and the wider community.

1.6 In the immediate term, Sawyers Hall will continue to school its existing student population. It will also continue to provide specialist work-related learning programmes for 14-19 year olds (including the new Diplomas) and apprenticeships as well as a base for Extended Children's Services.

1.7 The development of specialist provision at the Sawyers Hall site is likely to be enhanced by the development of a multi million pound vocational learning centre already bid for by the Brentwood Learning Partnership of Secondary Schools. This facility will enable access to first class vocational learning for young people right across the Brentwood community. It is important to the town that this is not lost.

1.8 In 2010 the college will admit its last cohort of students into Year 7 and restrict their numbers tightly. Eventually, at a date to be agreed, Sawyers Hall College will formally close and become the 'Community Campus' of Shenfield High School.

1.9 Shenfield will then lead and manage the provision established by the College and further rationalise its own provision as the site could also house the community sports development and the teacher training centre that is the focus of the Mid-Essex Initial Teacher Training scheme, both of which Shenfield currently leads.

1.10 The proposal provides opportunities for other types of provision. For example, with the agreement of the Local Authority and others, the community site at Sawyers Hall could be a home for specialist Behaviourally Emotionally and Socially Disadvantaged "BESD" provision (currently lacking in the town) as well as, possibly, adult education and other aspects of community learning.

1.11 Shenfield High School's Alexander Lane site will continue much as now, but with some additional building (to accommodate higher numbers) and refurbishment of existing facilities. This investment will improve the mainstream provision of secondary schooling within the town, but at lower total cost to the County.

1.12 The proposal has been developed by Governors of the two schools and their Headteachers, and is now agreed by both Full Governing Bodies as ready for formal presentation to the LA.

John Fairhurst, Headteacher, Joe Swift, Chairman, on behalf of the Governors of Shenfield High School	Stephen Capper, Headteacher Neil Macaree, Chairman, on behalf of the Governors of Sawyers Hall College
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