

Herefordshire Schools First

Bulletin 8
14 April 2008

Dear friend

In this SchoolsFirst Bulletin 8:

- A new letter from the Dept for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) puts further Whitehall pressure on Herefordshire Council
- Nearly 94% of parents in Herefordshire have reportedly been offered their first preference of school. But how have individual schools fared?
- Plans for the new primary school at Staunton-on-Wye and Wyebridge Academy have been approved
- And finally ... yours truly calls for fairer funding for Herefordshire's schools on Radio 4's *Any Questions?*

COMMENT

The publication on 31 March of a new letter to local authorities from DCSF makes clear that the Government is still pushing councils hard to reduce "surplus capacity" in schools. Among other things, it says "local authorities should work towards reducing overall surplus to under 10% with no school having more than 25%" surplus capacity.

However, the letter also contains a table showing Herefordshire with 13 schools that have 25% surplus capacity. We need to ask: what is now supposed to happen at these 13 schools? Will Herefordshire be specifically targeted if these schools continue to operate as before?

I am trying to get hold of a soft copy of the letter for the SF Bulletin and website. In the meantime watch this space...

Jesse

Please circulate this to friends and fellow

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supporters. Ask them to sign up on the website. And if you have any ideas for the SchoolsFirst.org.uk site and for the Bulletin, please email me details on jesse4hereford@gmail.com.

NATIONAL NEWS

Jesse calls for fairer funding for Herefordshire Schools -- *Radio 4*

Schools campaigner Jesse Norman has publicly called for fairer funding for Herefordshire's schools on the BBC's flagship radio programme *Any Questions?* The programme was chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby and also featured Health Minister Ben Bradshaw MP, Guardian columnist Polly Toynbee and the economist Ruth Lea. http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/news/anyquestions_transcripts_20080321.shtml

LOCAL NEWS

Parents offered first choice school -- *Hereford Council*

Parents of the county's pre-school children have been learning which primary school their child will go to in September. Nearly 94 percent of parents in Herefordshire have been offered their first preference, and a further four percent have been offered their second choice.

http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/council_gov_democracy/news/33766.asp

A school for the 21st century -- *Hereford Times*

A long-running scheme to replace a crumbling village school is back on track after Herefordshire councillors backed plans to build a new primary school in Staunton-on-Wye.

<http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/htnewse>

[ducation/display.var.2172938.0.a_school_for_the_21st_century.php](http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/htnewse-ducation/display.var.2172938.0.a_school_for_the_21st_century.php)

Thumbs-up for Wyebriidge bid -- *Hereford Times*

Ambitious plans to transform a Hereford school into a state-of-the-art academy have won council backing. Herefordshire Council supported a £22 million scheme to redevelop Wyebriidge Sports College into an academy.

http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/htnewse-ducation/display.var.2172943.0.thumbsup_for_wyebriidge_bid.php

College 'crucial' for town -- *Hereford Times*

Queen Elizabeth Humanities College is crucial to the future of Bromyard, according to a leading county figure. The school was re-launched as a specialist humanities college by guest of honour, Clive Richards, who provided major sponsorship.

http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/htnewse-ducation/display.var.2149929.0.college_crucial_for_town.php
