

8 February 2016

## **Swimming Pool Update**

South Hunsley is a school with a growing population living within its catchment and our priority is to secure the very best education and outcomes for our local children.

We fully appreciate the significant community effort 45 years ago to raise money for the initial outdoor pool construction. The school has maintained, developed and supported this facility ever since and it is with great regret that we have had to take the decision to close the pool. The Directors recognise the enormous disappointment that this decision will cause pool users. The working premise of Directors behind our planned developments is that all senior aged school children from our published catchment area should be educated at the top performing, 'Outstanding' school in the East Riding, one that is in the top 15 state schools for sport in the country.

Recognising the complexity and length of the independent report, we have drawn together some key facts for your information.

### **Context**

- All funding received from the EFA/central government must be solely for the purpose of educating our students. Diverting funds from students' learning resources and facilities to repair or maintain a swimming pool is not allowed under our funding agreement.
- There are 10 swimming pools within 10 miles of the school suitable for leisure and swimming lessons. 4 of these are within a 5 mile radius of the school.
- £6 million was recently spent at a local leisure centre, 5 miles away which included the refurbishment of a 25m swimming pool.
- Public transport links to many of these facilities are better than links to South Hunsley.
- In the last 12 months, 5 of our local primary schools have used the pool for a single session once a week for an 8 to 10 week block.
- In their school career, South Hunsley students use the pool for less than 15 hours of taught curriculum time.

### **Our Facilities**

- In 2005 South Hunsley School and Sixth Form College had 3 fully operational kitchens and dining rooms which served 1809 students. In 2016, the school has 1 fully operational kitchen for 2122 students.
- The school is currently operating temporary dining arrangements which include moving food across the site to ensure all students can be served during the lunchtime break.
- Because of the location of the school and where most students live, very few students are able to go home for lunch and most are onsite throughout the lunch break. We serve food to over 1600 people on an average school day.
- We need an additional 189 place exam hall to accommodate our Year 10 to Year 13 student population in order to meet new end of course terminal exam requirements.

- In 2005 South Hunsley students had access to approx. 49,000m<sup>2</sup> of play space at breaks and lunch times (excluding the old youth club footprint, now the primary footprint). In 2016, they have access to approx. 23,000m<sup>2</sup> because of the essential classroom developments to accommodate the existing catchment area. It is therefore a key priority for us not to expand our building footprint any further.

### School Admissions

Last year we had 407 1<sup>st</sup> choice applications for 350 available places. Students who were allocated an initial place were as below:

School Year Normal Y7 admissions	Available places	Statement ed Children	Looked after Children	Resident in catchment	Siblings	Feeder primaries	Staff	Distance	Total excluding distance
2015-16	350	2	1	310	19	18	0	3	347
2016-17**	350	4	2	311	14	19	0	0	350

\*\* latest projected figures

### School Growth

- Numbers of students living in the catchment area are growing. The school increased its published admissions number from 320 to 350 per year group based on projected growth forecasts from the East Riding Council. Without increasing our number on roll and developing appropriate facilities for all students some students in our catchment area would be unable to secure a place at South Hunsley in the future.
- Since September 2015, only students living in catchment, attending feeder primaries or who are siblings of existing Hunsley students have been initially allocated a place at the school. Out of catchment students only gain a place when one is turned down by an in-catchment child (usually where the family has chosen to take up a place at a private school).
- The following numbers have been agreed for our catchment growth and subsequent school numbers with the Department for Education.

	Total School
2015	2,108
2016	2,170
2017	2,234
2018	2,301
2019	2,318
2020	2,328

### Financial Facts

- Cost to the school to refurbish just the pool and plant equipment is £250,000 (NB we have been advised that there is no guarantee that once the water is drained out of the pool the structure will remain stable).
- £250,000 equates to the total amount spent annually on books and learning resources for over 2100 students in Years 7 to 13.
- There remains a significant ongoing cost liability to maintain the wider infrastructure of the pool that is well beyond its original design life
- South Hunsley pool can only open to the public from 4pm because of its position in the centre of the school and therefore for safeguarding reasons it cannot open to members

of the public during school hours. For a swimming pool to sustain its viability we are advised by the Sport England report 'The Affordability of Community Swimming Pools' that a pool would have to be open Monday to Friday 6am to 10.30pm and Saturday and Sunday 7am – 10.30pm. The report assumes occupancy of at least 28 per hour for every hour that the pool is open.

- Average pool users per public swimming session at South Hunsley is 6.8 (based on actual numbers using the pool in May/June 2015 when the count was done as part of the consultation period for the report).
- The average number of South Hunsley Swimming Club members using the pool during private swim club sessions is 25.4 (based on numbers physically counted over a two week period in January/February 2016).
- Contribution of South Hunsley Swimming Club to the overheads of the pool works out at £184 a week (once lifeguards have been paid).
- There are 10.5 hours a week where the pool is dedicated to swimming lessons. Presently, there is no contribution to running costs from this activity as income only covers staffing costs.
- According to the Sport England report the target annual income for an equivalent sized pool to break even is £607,564.

### **The Future**

- The Sports Centre will continue to open its remaining facilities to the community every night and at weekends.
- New facilities created will be available to the community and we have already received several approaches from community groups and sporting clubs expressing an interest. Presently 67 community sporting clubs/groups (non-pool) use our facilities each week out of school hours.
- Schools have been informed by the Education Funding Agency to plan for a 10-15% reduction in real terms to their annual budget over the next few years.

There remains an urgent need to create a large flexible multi use facility to meet our responsibility to provide safe, indoor non-teaching facilities for dining, exams and indoor sports.

Whilst we recognise the enormous disappointment the closure causes pool users and the swimming club in particular, we believe the decision taken by the Board of Directors meets the needs of all current and future students and ensures the financial stability of the school.

### **Hunsley Trust Board of Directors**