

PRESS RELEASE

Sandwell residents to have their say in the future of Sandwell schools
Sandwell Council is urging local residents to get involved with a public consultation into a multi-million pound schools' improvement programme.

By the time the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme is completed, each secondary school in the borough will be replaced or be extensively refurbished to provide state of the art teaching and learning facilities and Extended Schools Services, open for community use.

In order to build schools that benefit everyone in Sandwell, the Council need to hear the views of local residents. There will be a series of events around the borough during the consultation period, which runs from 3 March – 25 April, and street advertising will tell people where to get more information.

Full and summary versions of a consultation document, including a brief questionnaire, will also be available. For more details, go to the website at www.bsf.sandwell.aov.uk.

Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Under BSF, Sandwell schools will become extended schools at the heart of the community, and everyone in the neighbourhood can use them and benefit.

"It is really important to us that staff, secondary school pupils of today and tomorrow, parents, the local community and other groups are involved in working with private sector partners and Sandwell Council to ensure that the new schools will meet their needs."

Melanie Dudley, the Director of Transformation who is sponsoring BSF, said: "Schools and communities can both gain from extending school activities and services into the community and using school facilities beyond the school day.

"We would like to see everyone getting involved in this once in a lifetime chance to shape schools and their facilities."