

Statement to Cabinet 25-Nov-10 by Steve Wakefield

Madam Chairman, Cabinet,

Steve Wakefield, ex pupil and co founder of old boys website. I believe I represent the opinions of up to 500 ex pupils. Among our number are many creators of small businesses, heads of mining operations in Canada, Australia, South America, a director of a worldwide oil exploration company, and the civil engineer charged with overhauling London's Victorian sewage system.

Some 40 years ago, my father, then heading the Technical School PTA stood before a similar committee, to plead that the school stay open. Your predecessors chose to close the Tech and the school was amalgamated to form Culverhay, in order to better serve the community of the SW area of the city. Bath lost a very special educational resource.

I want you to re-consider closure of Culverhay on several grounds, and re-open consultation.

Your main reason for this closure seems to be Baths pupil numbers. I thought low pupil teacher ratios were supposed to be a good thing and don't seem to be a problem at Kingswood, The Royal, and King Edwards, whose results trumpet this fact!

Culverhay has been wanting to go co-ed for many years, and been refused. If it were allowed to do so, given its catchment area, it would attract siblings of those presently at the school, and be a substantially larger school, maybe double the numbers thereby justifying its existence.

The area needs a school which provides skills for future jobs, and Culverhay is already well along that route with its emphasis on Math's and Computing. Vocational training could also be incorporated into a larger school. Its results show it is having a very positive effect on its pupils lives.

It makes no sense transport wise to increase the overall number of cross river journeys inflicted on the already traffic struck citizens of Bath. The resulting rush hour jams and pollution don't bear thinking of, whichever route is chosen, unless every pupil is provided with a bike and uses it! I notice a huge number of present pupils walking to school – surely to be encouraged.

Respectfully, you were elected to carry out the wishes of the electorate. The electorate of the SW of Bath, overwhelmingly wish the school to stay open. Closure of Culverhay, will rip the communal heart out of an already underfunded area of the city.

You have a unique opportunity, to provide the people of the South and South West of Bath, with a new dynamic and forward looking school, full of opportunity and providing Britain with the useful young people of the future.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS ILL CONCEIVED PROPOSAL.