

Buildings making way for Swindon Academy



ALL SMILES Past and present pupils from Pinehurst junior and infants' schools, which are to be demolished next month. Inset, a plaque dating from 1935
Picture: SIOBHAN BOYLE Ref: 216571

LAST CHANCE TO VISIT YOUR OLD CLASSROOM

FAMILIES have one last chance to look around a two 74-year-old Pinehurst schools before they are bulldozed.

The former Pinehurst junior and infants' schools are due to be demolished at the end of next month to make way for the new £35m Swindon Academy.

The academy is opening the school doors for the community, former students and parents to have a last look around the buildings on Thursday, July 2, from 4pm to 7pm.

The site where the schools' buildings now stand will become a car park.

Charlotte Harding, 22, of Semley Walk in Penhill, is feeling nostalgic already. She said: "We don't want Pinehurst juniors and infants' to be knocked down. There are too many

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memories here.

"We want our children to have them but they will have memories from the new building."

Carol Ford, 49, attended the Beech Avenue school and her children and grandchildren have followed in her footsteps.

Carol, a grandmother of 12, of Linden Avenue, said: "The school is the same but it just has a different name now. I never liked school myself, as I was

bullied but sometimes it was OK. It is a bit upsetting that the building is getting knocked down."

Her seven-year-old daughter, Camilla, added: "I think the new school will be really nice. I love school."

Carol's daughter Christine, 22, is planning to send her 17-month-old baby Taiya to the academy as well. She said: "It is easy to get to and the rest of the family have all attended the schools."

Three generations of Hayley Pike's family have attended the school, including her daughters Jessica, seven, and Izabel, nine.

"It is quite sad, as I came here as well as my mum," said the 35-year-old, of Maple Grove. "If the new school is good then I won't mind."

Nine-year-old Laura Courtney, of Redhouse, said: "I feel sad to lose the buildings and I think they should keep the schools open, as they have been here for years."

Pinehurst junior and infants' schools merged along with Penhill Primary and the former Headlands school to become part of the flagship academy.

The academy is currently split on different sites until the new building is ready but Penhill Primary School will stay at Alton Close.

The first children will move into the new building, which is being built on the site of Pinehurst People's Centre, in September.

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