

E: info@bestacademies.org.uk

T: 01462 811519

W: bestacademies.org.uk

Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited, BEST House,
Shefford Road, Clifton, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5QS



29th October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We wrote to you a few weeks ago about proposed changes by Central Bedfordshire Council to schools across the Shefford, Stotfold and surrounding area. These include a number of BEST Schools. Namely: Samuel Whitbread Academy; Pix Brook Academy; Robert Bloomfield Academy; Etonbury Academy; Gravenhurst Academy; Langford Village Academy; and Gothic Mede Academy.

We now write to inform you that the public consultation opens today, 29th October 2019 and runs until 5pm 20th January 2020. This is your opportunity to have your say. As parents and carers of our current pupils, you have an enormously important stake in the plan and we would encourage you all to contribute to this important process.

Central Bedfordshire Council has produced communication materials. These may be accessed at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14ggGDubPbjfodedhcqKUSgE5h4_k1lkr?usp=sharing. They provide information on the plan for the local area and the process of change.

The Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST) **does** support the move to primary-secondary envisaged in the materials. However, it **does not** support the staggered approach described. We believe that a single and fully-co-ordinated move is in the best interests of all children, delivering openness, transparency and choice. We are keen to hear whether you support our schools and agree with a single, fully-co-ordinated move. Please would you click on the link:

<https://forms.gle/Kc2qrWT4HKBETdtJ6> and complete the single question feedback form.

For those wishing to hear more about why a single and fully-co-ordinated move is in the best interests of all children and their families and why a staggered approach introduces unnecessary and avoidable confusion, we would like to invite you to one of two Information and Consultation Evenings. These will be held:

Robert Bloomfield Academy (RBA) – **2nd December 2019, 5:30-7:00pm**

Samuel Whitbread Academy (SWA) – **27th November 2019, 5:30-7:00pm**

At each of the evenings, you will be provided with an overview of the change for all BEST schools and specifics with regard to RBA or SWA respectively. We have chosen these two schools, since the staggered approach negatively impacts on them the most. At both sessions, there will be opportunities to ask general questions. Should there be sufficient demand, further evenings will be held. Please be reassured that maintaining the quality of education provided to all our children through the process of change is the absolute priority for all BEST schools.

Yours faithfully

Alan Lee
Chief Executive Officer

Ilona Bond
Chair of Trustees

Dr Alan Lee
CEO & National Leader of Education.



BEST Schools: Samuel Whitbread Academy, Etonbury Academy, Pix Brook Academy, Robert Bloomfield Academy, St Christophers Academy, Gothic Mede Academy, Langford Village Academy, Gravenhurst Academy, Lawnside Academy and BEST Nurseries.

Company Registration Number: 07546141 | VAT Registration Number: 120 7845 28 | BEST has exempt charitable status by virtue of being an academy trust.