

PIX BROOK NEWS



ISSUE 2
MARCH 2019

As we start the beginning of March and the weather starts to improve it seems a great opportunity to share with you some of the developments of Pix Brook Academy since the new year. Many of you will have seen the Stotfold news and noted the number of activities taking place, these have included meetings with parents and governors in addition to a variety of discussions about the site.

If you have been to the Etonbury school in the last few weeks you will have seen that the temporary site has started. The local authority have contracted Modplan to construct the building and progress is expected to be rapid. This will provide the accommodation for the first year group to join the school and will provide both the classrooms and communal space. Although the site is temporary the building is permanent and will provide a high standard of accommodation that will continue to be used once we have moved to the permanent site.

The location of the permanent site is behind the new Stotfold football club (currently being constructed). The final meeting to decide on the successful contractor is planned for the 18th March. Having been involved in a number of meetings with contractors and architects I can confidently say that the permanent school will be a fantastic building with all the benefits of modern construction and design. As the new Principal of this school this really is beginning to feel like a once in a lifetime opportunity. I look forward to sharing with you the plans once the local authority have made their decision, however regardless of the choice I believe that this school will provide the most fantastic learning environment for its learners

with state of the art facilities and accommodation.

I have also started to develop the systems and structures necessary to both open and subsequently run the new school. I have met with a number of local headteachers to discuss both opportunities and potential collaborations. Clearly it is vital that the working relationship between Pix Brook Academy and the other local schools is a productive one. I am hoping that as the school develops we can take advantage of each school's uniqueness to contribute to the educational provision in Stotfold and the local community.

On other matters I am working closely with our new chair of Governors Sue Howley to ensure that provision is of the highest standard. Her experience of working with new and growing schools is already proving invaluable. I have also made significant progress in terms of our uniform, the timing of the school day, catering and transport and will be able to share the developments in these areas very soon.

Finally I am keen to start the recruitment process for staff at the school. Inevitably this is dependant on my availability which remains limited because of my continuing role at my current school. Suffice it to say that the advertisements for positions will start soon. I have added some detail to this later in the newsletter.

Steve Adams
*Pix Brook Academy
Principal Designate*

CURRICULUM CORE PRINCIPLES

There are some simple core principles which will drive the curriculum at Pix Brook Academy. Our curriculum will be based around these and they will govern our thinking and determine our ethos. Obviously these will evolve over time as we work with our community and learners to find the right fit. In its most simple form there are three pillars around which I plan to deliver the curriculum:

Unapologetically Ambitious

Relentlessly Aspirational

Socially Responsible

To add a flavour of what these principles mean in practice they are best understood by considering the elements that are associated with each:

My ambitions for the young people in my care is to provide a learning environment that leads to improved life chances. In reality that means providing a curriculum that provides the educational foundations that are both rigorous and engaging. We will ensure the curriculum is broad and balanced and has the key skills necessary to be successful in an ever more competitive world.

I believe in the power of high aspirations for our community. Aiming high is about looking to see what

might be achieved. It is about setting targets that are aspirational and providing examples of opportunities that are beyond the expected. Having the chance to hear from experts in their field or experience something that is different from the norm can be the key to achieving something different in life.

Finally I am all too aware that as educators we are privileged to be working with the future leaders and custodians of this planet. I believe we have a moral responsibility to ensure that the importance of this is not lost on our young people. Education is about qualifications and experiences, but it also about thinking and responsibility. It is vital that we prepare young people not just for their job of work but for their contribution to their community. By providing a rich and varied curricular we can hopefully broaden our understanding of what it means to be a responsible citizen.

These broad principles are beginning to influence the thinking behind the curriculum offer. The focus on the delivery of the core of English, maths, science, humanities, MFL and PE will obviously make up the majority of our teaching time. The key to achieving our broader aims will be to ensure that these subjects are delivered in a way that engages and excites the learners. Drawing from the world around us and using this to exemplify and engage is the challenge I look forward to.

Steve Adams
*Pix Brook Academy
Principal Designate*



GOVERNANCE

I am delighted to report that we held our first local governing board (LGB) meeting on 4th February. It was really great to get together with such an experienced group of people who want the best possible local provision for the community and children.

Steve Adams, Head teacher, and I welcomed our volunteers, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Paul Warwick, Colleen Heaton, Natalie Pilch, Deborah Kane, Louise Pearson and Hannah Farnsworth. Kelly Ritchie will also be joining us. Many of you will recognise that some of this group have governance experience and several are local parents.

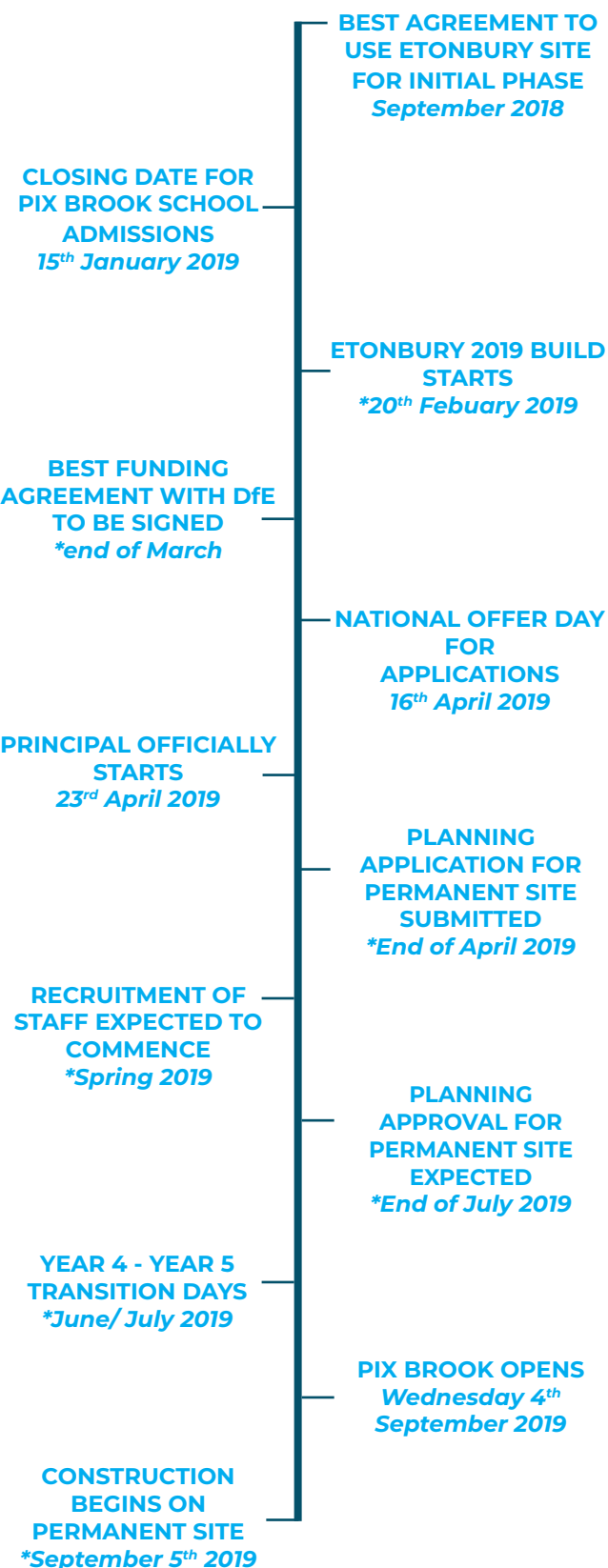
We received a briefing about the plans for both builds, admissions and finance from Central Bedfordshire Officers, Victor Wan, Head of School Organisation, Capital Planning and School Admissions, Jessica Mortimer-Wabel – School Admissions Manager, Connor Matheson – Project Officer and Helen Konstantinidi – Principal Project Manager, Capital Projects.

Steve updated us about plans for the curriculum, staff recruitment, transition and uniform. We are very pleased to be working with BEST to support us in developing this new school. We will be meeting regularly after Easter and will keep you updated.

Sue Howley MBE

TIMELINE

Here we will try to guide you through the key dates going forward. By necessity some will be approximate (*) and we will update with each newsletter as more information arrives.



RECRUITMENT AT PIX BROOK

For the first year at Pix Brook Academy there will be a range of employment opportunities. Initially we will be looking to appoint experienced teachers who are keen to join a new school in its first year of operation. This is an almost unique opportunity to be one of the first staff members in a brand-new school with all the inherent benefits. Undoubtedly it will be incredibly hard work, but that challenge is more than matched by the chance to influence and contribute to the development of the culture and ethos of Pix Brook academy. Initially we will be taking Y5 pupils only, taking another Y5 group each year with pupils staying until Y11. As part of the BEST multi academy trust we are fortunate to have huge experience and expertise supporting the academy. However the key driver for success will be the quality of the staff appointed. If you feel you have the attributes, experience and attitude to be an inaugural member of staff at Pix Brook Academy then please contact make contact at the address shown below.

PBA-Recruitment@bestacademies.org.uk

Teaching positions to include:

- Director of KS2. Assistant Principal. L8-14
- Teacher of KS2. TLR 2b. Head of KS2 English.
- Teacher of KS2. TLR 2b. Head of KS2 maths.
- Teacher of KS2. TLR 2a. Head of KS2 Humanities.
- Teacher of KS2. Possible TLR available.
- Part time Teacher of KS2.

Non-teaching positions to include:

- Head of Y5 / Cover supervisor. (Negotiable)
- Teaching Assistant.



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Our colleagues at Central Beds have provided this update for you

Central Bedfordshire Council
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central
Bedfordshire

Pix Brook New School

Central Bedfordshire Council Update

2019 Accommodation at Etonbury

Planning Permission for the 2019 Accommodation was approved by Committee on 9th January 2019, with construction starting 20th February 2019. Tenders for the build have now been received and evaluated, and the successful contractor will be appointed in due course.



Pix Brook New School – Update

Tenders were submitted by design and build contractors for the new Pix Brook School, and have now been evaluated. The next step will be for outline proposals to be created by two finalists and submitted and appraised in March for selection of one design and build contractor, who will take the design forward.

Admissions

Following the national closing date for Transfer to Middle 2019 applications on 15 January 2019, the School Admissions Team is currently processing all on-time applications received in advance of the allocation. Parents/carers who submitted their applications by the closing date will be notified of the outcome on 16 April 2019 (National offer day).

Parents/carers yet to submit a Middle 2019 application can do so on our website, although these will be processed in our late allocation in May. Late Middle 2019 applications and applications for Pix Brook Academy can be made at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions