

# PIX BROOK NEWS



It is a pleasure and a privilege to welcome you to our first Pix Brook News. All in the Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST) community are thrilled to open this new state-of-the-art school for the pupils of Central Bedfordshire.

The Pix Brook Academy (PBA) will welcome its first cohort of pupils on 1 September 2019. The school will be a mixed-sex, 9-16 extended-Secondary school, serving 1260 pupils. The admission number for each year group will be 180. As a new school, PBA pupils will benefit from an exceptional learning environment, enriched by the latest technologies, all in a beautiful rural setting.

The purpose of the Pix Brook News is to keep you fully up-to-date with progress as we move towards the opening of PBA. As you will learn from the pages that follow, much has already been achieved. Our vision and values are in place; our founding Principal and Chair of Governors have been appointed; our site has been chosen and works are underway; and, our education plan is ready to go.

Initially, in September 2019 PBA will open on the current

Etonbury Academy site, with a first cohort of 120 pupils. The new building will be available in September 2020. A full programme of communications beyond this newsletter, including open evenings, parent/community forums, a new website and social media alerts are in place. There is a clear and transparent timeline for all activities, referencing website links/computer generated images of what the buildings will look like. It is going to be fabulous.

Whilst the purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed, it is also an invitation to 'get involved'. Indeed, it has been wonderful to see so many of you at the two Open Evenings we have already held. Of course, PBA will have many advantages and benefit from the immense expertise and experience contained within BEST. However, we are determined to deliver an Outstanding community school, for and shaped by the community. Please help us shape our vision to deliver your school.

With every best wish.

Dr Alan Lee  
CEO, BEST

# MEET THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to take this opportunity to provide a brief introduction before I take up the exciting opportunity as Principal of Pix Brook Academy.

For the last thirteen years I have been working in Leighton Buzzard as the Deputy Head Teacher of Vandyke Upper School and subsequently as Head Teacher of Gilbert Inglefield Middle School. I have worked in schools as a teacher for over twenty years having started my career in London teaching economics and maths. During that time I have held a variety of roles within schools and have spent much of my career working with young people to develop their understanding of the world around them and encourage them to be inquisitive about everything.

I moved from London to Letchworth and then to Stotfold a number of years ago and my two children have subsequently attended the Lower and Middle schools in Stotfold before joining Samuel Whitbread Upper school. Watching their journey

through the education system has been invaluable in helping me to appreciate the pressures young people face today and the challenges of preparing them for their futures.

Prior to teaching I worked as a quantity surveyor and travelled. The experiences outside education and the perspective gained from seeing other ways of living make me even more convinced of the power of education and even more determined to ensure that what happens in Pix Brook Academy is as good as it can be. It is only by doing this that its pupils can be prepared for their futures in an increasingly uncertain and competitive world.

I look forward to working with you as we develop our new school.

Steve Adams  
Pix Brook Academy  
Principal Designate



## KEY UPDATES

In this section we will provide you with educational updates on progress towards the opening of Pix Brook Academy. We recognise

there is a need to provide regular updates and ensure you have all the information we can provide. In this BEST newsletter we will focus in on our areas of responsibility such as curriculum, teaching and learning, staffing updates, governance plans etc. As a reminder, Central Bedfordshire Council are responsible for the development of the building and coordinating admissions and have provided an update on page 4. Our aim is to keep you updated via the newsletter, the new website, social media and other forms of comms.



Some headline activity:

- appointment of new Principal
- development of 5 year financial plan
- hosting a successful DfE visit on the 27<sup>th</sup> November (who were impressed by BESTs ability to deliver Pix Brook)
- two parent Open Evenings on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and the 10<sup>th</sup> December
- development of new Pix Brook website
- building a new Local Governing Body for Pix Brook
- setting up of a Parents Consultative Group
- presentations to feeder school governing bodies and local councils
- communicating developments on social media and through a new dedicated Pix Brook newsletter
- attendance at the Central Beds Pix Brook board meetings
- inputs into Central Beds designs and tendering processes
- launching a statutory Section 10 consultation

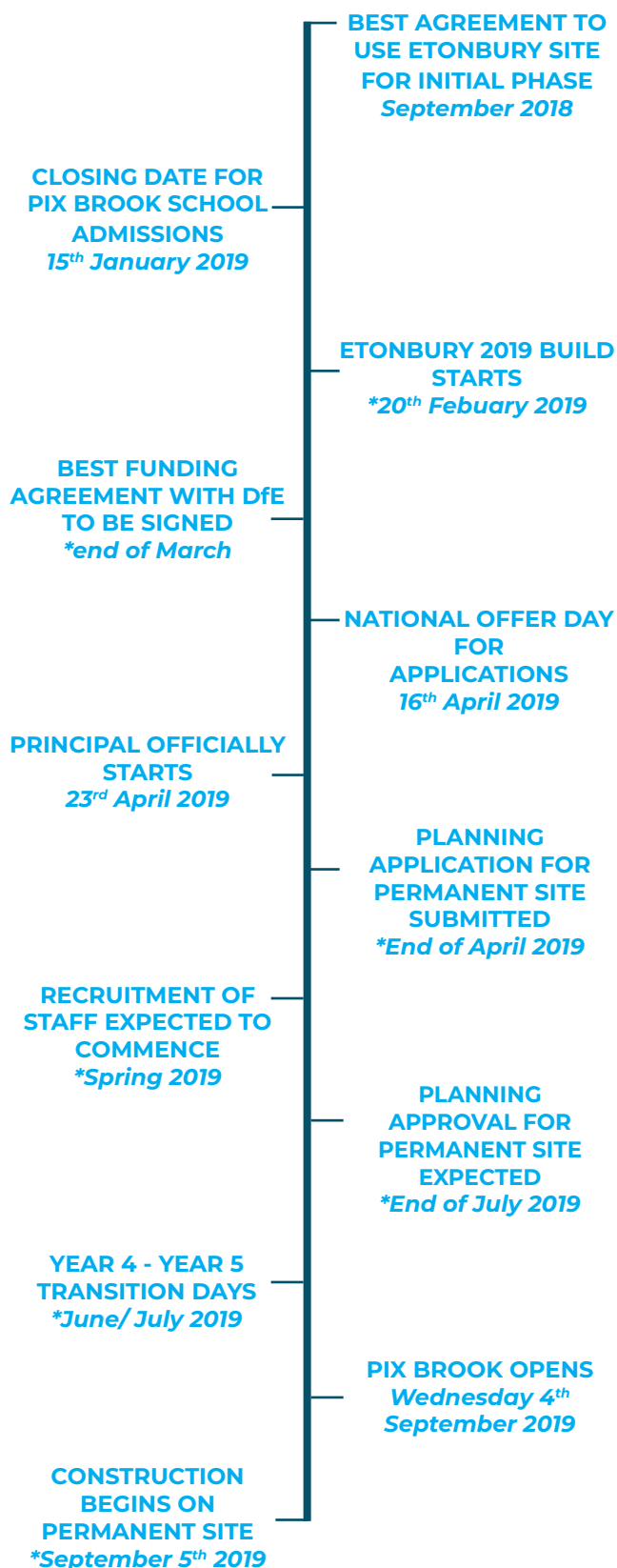
## THANK YOU FEEDER SCHOOLS

We would like to say a huge thanks to the four Lower Schools who have helped communicate updates on Pix Brook. Thanks for your help in sharing information with parents and hosting meetings. A real great example of schools coming together to support parent need. Thank you.



# 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.



## VISION & ETHOS

The driving force behind the Trust is always to achieve the best possible for all students, and all staff. We have a framework of principles that guide our schools' decisions - our moral compass. Each school, however, has its own individual nature. Our Vision and Ethos for the children at Pix Brook is encapsulated here:

A school which provides an outstanding, all round education for students from Year 5 to Year 11 by . . .

- Stimulating a child's curiosity inside the classroom, through a broad and exciting curriculum, and outside the classroom by offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Maximising progress for all by having a relentless drive for the best outcomes for every student
- Empowering students to be confident, articulate and resilient in different situations, by offering opportunities to showcase their skills and challenge any boundaries faced
- Creating a school where positive and respectful relationships are the norm, and students feel safe and happy
- Nurturing honesty and trustworthiness; to stand up for what is right and developing personal moral views



Alison Wilshaw  
*BEST Director of Education*

## WANT TO STAY UPDATED?

Follow us on Twitter @PixBrookA

Join our mailing list  
Email: [PixBrook@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:PixBrook@bestacademies.org.uk)



Our colleagues at Central Beds have provided this update for you

Central Bedfordshire Council  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Central  
Bedfordshire

# Pix Brook New School

## Central Bedfordshire Council Update

### 2019 Accommodation at Etonbury

The provision of the Temporary Car Park is underway, with the work anticipated to finish December 19<sup>th</sup>. Construction will begin on site 20<sup>th</sup> February along with the construction of the permanent car park, which will be delivered during the Summer Holidays. Planning has now been submitted for the 2019 Accommodation at Etonbury with the decision planned for 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Queries contact: [School.Organisation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:School.Organisation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)



### Admissions

A reminder that all Transfer to Middle 2019 applications must be received by the School Admissions Team by 15 January 2019. If you are applying for a place at Pix Brook Academy you will need to complete the Middle 2019 application as well as the Pix Brook application.

You can make your applications online at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

The School Admissions Team will be sending reminder letters in the first few days of January to those families yet to make their application to encourage them to apply by the closing date.

All families who apply by the closing date (15 January) will be notified of the outcome of their application on 16 April 2019. The School Admissions Team will contact Pix Brook applicants once the funding agreement with the Department for Education has been signed to merge their applications ahead of the allocation.

If you have any queries regarding the admission process please contact the School Admissions Team on 0300 300 8037 or [admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).