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Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited, BEST House,  
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25<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to inform you of proposed changes by Central Bedfordshire 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.

In common with other areas across Central Bedfordshire, the plan is based on us moving to a primary/secondary system. All of the schools in the area have signed up, in principle, to moving to the two-tier system. This is a position which BEST supports. However, Central Bedfordshire's plan is to have a phased approach, over time. This we do not support. We strongly believe that all schools should move together in a co-ordinated manner at the same time. This would provide both clarity and certainty for all: pupils, parents/carers and staff.

Central Bedfordshire's plan is being considered by the Council's Executive Committee on 8 October, who will be asked to approve a community consultation on it. If this is agreed, there will be a 12-week public consultation starting after half term. The report for this meeting is being published on the council website ([www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)) on 26 September and this provides more information about proposals for all schools in the area.

As parents/carers of our current pupils, you obviously have an enormously important stake in the plan. We would encourage you all to contribute to this important process and, in particular, consider whether all schools moving together in a co-ordinated manner at the same time may be preferable. We will let you know when the public consultation is open, how to take part and the reasons behind our preferred position.

We realise that these proposals might raise questions for you and your family. We will arrange information evenings to support you. 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.