

THE STORY SO FAR...

Welcome to the first Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST) Two-Tier Update. As you will be aware, the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) reorganisation process, called Schools for the Future, began back in August 2018.

In August 2020, CBC decided that the Shefford and Stotfold cluster of schools should transition to a two-tier system of education, comprising primary and secondary schools.

BEST supports this transition. We believe a two-tier system will facilitate even better educational provision, enabling all of our students to fulfil their potential. However, for the two-tier system to be successful, CBC must meet five commitments to BEST. To remind you, these were to ensure:

1. Five form primary provision as part of the all-through 0-18 school which is combining Robert Bloomfield and Samuel Whitbread Academies.
2. Provision for pupils from Robert Bloomfield Academy's traditional feeder schools to gain entry to the secondary school part of the all-through 0-18 school.



Diggers are currently clearing the site of what is planned to be the new home of Campton Academy in Hitchin Road, on the outskirts of Shefford

3. Campton Academy – the newest member of BEST – becoming a new build two form of entry primary school.
4. Additional sixth form provision on the Samuel Whitbread and Etonbury/Pix Brook sites.
5. Developing a joint solution to all PFI-related issues on the Samuel Whitbread site.

This newsletter will continue to update and celebrate progress towards two-tier. It will let you know what is happening to your school and when.

We share your determination to create the best schools possible. These are exciting times, so please get involved, give us your support and tell us what you think by emailing schoolsforthefuture@bestacademies.org.uk

We welcome your views, they matter to us and we will always get back to you.

Dr Alan Lee, CEO, Bedfordshire Schools Trust

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT YOUR SCHOOL

LANGFORD VILLAGE ACADEMY

Converting to a 1FE primary school in September 2021 (intake 30 pupils)*



Latest progress: The school has agreed the plans to ensure it can accommodate its first Year 5 cohort in September 2021. CBC will be project managing the building work to be ready for September and be complete by December 2021. The plans will complement the new Langford Nursery which will be opening in early 2021.

CAMPTON ACADEMY

Expanding to a 2FE primary on a new site in September 2023 (intake 60 pupils)*



Latest progress: Trust and school leaders have met CBC three times so far to review initial site plans for the new build, which will be located on Hitchin Road in Shefford (next to Shefford Saints Football Club).

ETONBURY ACADEMY

Converting to a 7FE secondary school in September 2023 (intake 210 pupils)*



Latest progress: As part of a CBC-led feasibility study programme, trust and school leaders have had a series of meetings to scope out initial plans for the school. These include new sixth form provision, with CBC developing proposals for a purpose-built sixth form block.

**1FE (and so on) stands for 'one form of entry' and describes how many classes there are per year group. Each 'FE' equates to 30 places, so a 7FE secondary has an intake of 210 pupils a year*

ROBERT BLOOMFIELD & SAMUEL WHITBREAD ACADEMIES

PULLING TOGETHER IN SHEFFORD AND CLIFTON

The changes planned for Robert Bloomfield and Samuel Whitbread Academies are the most challenging and complex in the entire Shefford and Stotfold cluster.

The agreed plan is for the two schools to come together in September 2023 as one all-through 0-18 school.



This innovative school – a name for which is yet to be decided – will comprise a 60-place nursery, a 5FE primary school, a 7FE secondary school and an expanded sixth form.

We are expecting initial feasibility study reports from CBC shortly, and will ensure we provide regular updates to parents, staff and interested parties as this develops.



ANY QUESTIONS?

We've created a dedicated two-tier section on our website which includes a list of Frequently Asked Questions to answer any queries you may have.

Please visit www.bestacademies.org.uk/twotier

Email schoolsforthefuture@bestacademies.org.uk if you don't find the answers you're looking for.

GOTHIC MEDE ACADEMY

Converting to a 3FE primary in September 2023 and moving to a new purpose-built site*



Latest progress: CBC has reported back that housing developments in the Arlesey area are progressing slower than expected – raising a concern that the new build of Gothic Mede may not be ready for 2023 as planned. Our discussions with CBC on this continue.

GRAVENHURST ACADEMY

Converting to a 1FE primary school in September 2023 (intake 30 pupils)*



Latest progress: Trust and school leaders have held initial meetings with CBC and Concertus Design & Property Consultants to review plans for the site – with initial designs shared with us at this early stage.

PIX BROOK ACADEMY

Converting to a 7FE secondary school in September 2023 (intake 210 pupils)*



Latest progress: As part of the wider plans for the cluster, the newly-opened Pix Brook Academy, *left*, will convert to a secondary school from 2023 onwards – this will involve minimal building work. The future of sixth form provision is yet to be decided, with the first cohort of Year 11 pupils not due through until the 2025/26 academic year.

ROBERT BLOOMFIELD & SAMUEL WHITBREAD ACADEMIES

Coming together as a 0-18 all-through school in September 2023



Latest progress: See main story, *above left*, for full update.