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Dear Parents/Carers

As we return after the half-term break and with our schools beginning to open to larger numbers of pupils, we are writing to let you know that Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)'s consultation on reorganising schools began yesterday. The consultation will run for four weeks, closing on 30 June.

Clearly with everyone focused on the challenges around COVID-19, this is not ideal timing, but this is a process that began back in August 2018, and you will appreciate that CBC have a timetable that they need to follow.

A link to the full consultation document can be found here:

www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/shefford-stotfold

The reorganisation will affect your school, and so we would encourage you to read through the enclosed documents which include an infosheet on what the proposed changes will mean for your school, and some Frequently Asked Questions.

Since BEST was established in 2016, we have been focused on providing the very best education we can for children and families in Shefford, Stotfold and the surrounding area. The first four years of operation have been all about establishing a high bar educationally and ensuring that the organisation is financially stable.

All of our academies are now rated Good or better by Ofsted (or awaiting an Ofsted inspection) and the trust is in financial good health.

We are now responsible for the education of over 60% of children and young people in Shefford, Stotfold and the surrounding area, and the next four years will be about cementing our successes to date and accelerating improvements in standards.

We believe that a two-tier system will help us provide the very best education we can for the 6,000 pupils in the BEST family, and so overall we support CBC's proposals.

We have been working closely with officials and members at CBC over the last few months and we have made clear that our support for the proposals is dependent on them committing to five pledges. These are included in full in the enclosed infosheet. We are confident that with these conditions, the proposed reorganisation will help improve further the education we are able to provide locally.

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.

We are keen to engage all our pupils, parents/carers and staff in the consultation and will be publishing a report summarising the findings and addressing any questions or concerns that are raised. To respond to the consultation, please do so via:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5Bij57cE7uHkQcm_PGOogroySa75MaUf1yN4cA3cNtz56mA/viewform

If you have any questions, please do get in touch via 2tier2gether@bestacademies.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Dr Alan Lee
Chief Executive Officer
& National Leader of Education



Mrs Ilona Bond
Chair of Trustees

