

# CELEBRATING YOU

#### WELCOME

Etonbury staff and students have been staying active throughout lockdown with #healthyselfies Etonbury Academy









Covid may have stopped a lot of things, but Performing Arts, through wonders of a strong internet connection, have overcome some hurdles. Robert

Bloomfield are proud

to present a shortened, highlight montage from the Class of 2020. Thank you to Partnership Education for their helping putting this together.

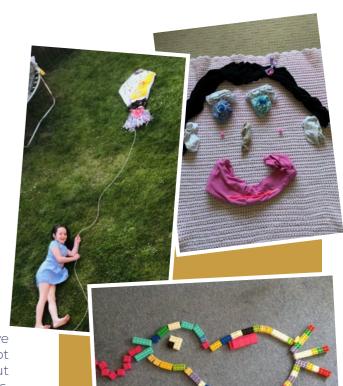
You can watch it here!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WNyribUco0

Robert Bloomfield Academy

Mrs Murray, midday supervisor at Lawnside Academy, has been knitting during lockdown. She is on her 4th bag which is well over 120 newborn baby bonnets which she has been knitting and donating to Lister hospital maternity ward. Well done Mrs Murray.







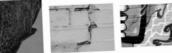














Year 9 photographers at Etonbury Academy have been responding to Siskind whilst exploring their surroundings. Outstanding!

Well done Sophia, Finn and Neha

**Etonbury Academy** 



In June Campton Lower rescued some baby birds!

Campton Lower School

Key worker children at Langford have been creating a fabulous Scarecrow for the Langford Scarecrow Festival, and a Bug Hotel which they hung in the school trees.

Students working from home made their own fish based on "The Rainbow Fish"

Langford Village Academy









Gothic Mede Academy have

Gothic Mede Academy have been having lots of fun since reopening including a socially distanced sports day, bug hunting and art.

Gothic Mede Academy

Samuel Whitbread have been busy filming some introductory videos for their new cohorts.

The Year 9 video takes you on a tour of the school and introduces you to the Year 9 team. You can watch the full video here: <a href="https://youtu.be/KS64ZpstSxk">https://youtu.be/KS64ZpstSxk</a>





The Sixth Form have also created a video where we are introduced to the Year team, Mr Martin and the Head Boy and Girl. You can see the full video here: <a href="https://youtu.be/OY4YIOUNLxQ">https://youtu.be/OY4YIOUNLxQ</a>



Also check out the SWA youtube channel to see the hard work each department has put in to creating induction videos for Sixth Formers.

Samuel Whitbread Academy







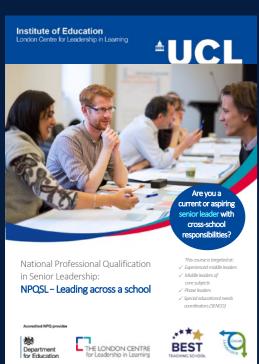
# **TEACHING** SCHOOL ROUNDUP

(All photos were taken before COVID-19 and social distancing measures.)

#### **NQT Training**

Throughout the year, BEST Teaching School has provided training sessions for our NQTs. Each session is designed to enhance their performance as a teacher and support them in their progress throughout their NQT year.













#### **Leadership Conference (Feb 2020)**

Leadership Conference with Andy Buck as the Key Note Speaker. Andy delivered a fantastic and motivational talk to the delegates and gave out a free copy of his book 'Leadership Matters 3.0' to each delegate. The key note speech was followed by a choice of 3 inspiring workshops each focusing on developing skills as leaders.









On average, our courses have been rated 99.1% Good or Outstanding bv delegates.





#### **NPOSL**

BEST Teaching School has hosted both the NPQML and NPQSL courses this year. Delegates have had the opportunity to develop leadership their through a number of sessions each focussing different aspect on a of leadership including Leading with Impact and Leading Learning and Teaching. Both courses culminating in an individual project to undertake at the delegates school.





To book a place, please visit

Over the year we have had 300+ delegates attend our courses, programmes and conferences.



#### **Outstanding Teacher Programme (OTP)**

OTP is a well-established course run on behalf of OLEVI. The course is designed to provide delegates with a deeper understanding of the latest innovations in pedagogy. Among many benefits, this programme helps teachers consistently to become outstanding in all their professional activities and has a significant impact on how people achieve.



















Etonbury Academy would like to take the opportunity to thank Year 11 for all their hard work this year. You have been an exemplary year group that have shown true resilience in the face of some incredibly challenging times, and have been an absolute credit to your families, our school community and BEST. In spite of all the uncertainty, we look forward to seeing you all in August to collect and celebrate your GCSE results. Thank you once again for being such a wonderful year

group. You will be sadly missed by all staff at Etonbury Academy and we wish you all the best for your post-16 academic careers and

**Etonbury Academy** 



Gravenhurst Academy have been enjoying being back at school since 22nd June. Although the working day looks a little different now students have been making the most of their time back at school and have been having lots of fun! Thank you to all the staff that have been able to make the reopening happen.

Gravenhurst Academy





#### STAFFING UPDATES

Here are a few updates from some of our schools, our other schools will have communicated directly with parents.

Campton Lower School- This summer, we are saying goodbye to four very valued members of staff. Marjorie Smith has worked at Campton since November 2011. She has worked throughout the school but mainly in Y4 and Reception. Her gardening club and skills will be sorely missed especially by our reception class who have been busy planting and caring for their outside area during lock down with the help of Dr Smith.

Alison George and Leanne Pope joined Campton in the autumn of 2018 and have worked in most classes but importantly, both Alison and Leanne have provided crucial one-to-one support to some of our most vulnerable pupils. The care provided has been outstanding and will be felt by these pupils for many vears to come.

Sarah Greenwood and Stephanie Termini are leaving Campton to study and we are delighted that their studies remain in the area of education to continue their excellent support and education pupils.

We are also saying goodbye to Holly Greenwood, our play leader, who has ensured that our pupils are engaged in fun and active games during lunchtimes. We wish them all well.

**Gravenhurst Academy** - We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Hudson our KS1 Teacher and Mrs Howard our EYFS TA and want to thank them for all they have done for our school.

Robert Bloomfield Academy - A huge well done and congratulations to Kirstie Flanagan and Rajdeep Josan for their successful applications to SCITT. They will be leaving us in August for their training year. Mike Ward leaves us to take up a teaching post in Bedford and Kieran Brazier begins a new role at Samuel Whitbread - good luck to you both and again, thank you.

From our SEND Team. Gill Chambers will be retiring this summer after 13 years of support and dedication. Daniel Hammer, who has made a huge impact in a short period of time will be taking on a new adventure next year and leaves us in the summer as well.

We also say au revoir, but not for too long, to Lauren and Libby and wish you all the best with your 'new additions' when they arrive!

We welcome Louisa Garosi to the English Department for Libby's maternity cover from September and Katy K to the PA Team to cover Lauren.

Lou Barnett takes on a new role at RBA as the School Manager, overseeing all Non-Teaching aspects of our daily management, wile Suzanne Prendergast was successfully appointed internally as our newest future leader taking on the role of Aspiring Subject Leader in Humanities.

We also said a fond farewell earlier this year to Steve Fox who took on a new, exciting role as Headteacher in a Primary School in Dunstable. A stalwart of the RBA community who dedicated almost three decades of teaching, leadership and guidance to our staff, students and families - we wish you the very best!



https://twitter.com/5\_News/ status/1267489287211225091

















beyond.

















## TWO TIER UPDATE

This academic year has seen a keen focus on the plans for the proposed move to a Two Tier education system across the Shefford and Stotfold cluster area - an area where 7 of the current 9 BEST schools reside and an area where over 60% of the learners in the cluster are educated within the BEST family of schools.

The recent consultations by Central Bedfordshire Council and BEST have seen high levels of support for the move towards two tier from the community (subject to the five pledges BEST has agreed with CBC being delivered). The next stage is for the Council Executive to agree the cluster plan at its August Executive. After that the changes need to be agreed by the Regional Schools Commissioner (we expect this to be in the Autumn).

Throughout the process we are committed to engaging and informing the community - with the next step being events for parents and the wider community in the new academic year, watch out for invites to these in September.



You can see in the photos below that Campton have made great efforts to make the site suitable for social distancing. Students have really enjoyed being able to get back into the classrooms and playgrounds.

Campton Lower School





### PIX BROOK UPDATE

During the weekends of the 4th and 19th July Willmott Dixon opened the new Pix Brook Site to new and existing parents and governors for a tour. I am delighted and grateful that Willmott Dixon were able to provide this opportunity for new parents to visit the school at this crucial stage in its construction. I think it is fair to say that WD have been confronted by many challenges throughout the process and to be at this point with two months to go is an indictment to the commitment and hard work of all concerned. Many will not realise that the initial programme for this build was extraordinarily challenging from the inception. If this is combined with the impact of extreme weather at the start of the year and the subsequent arrival of a global pandemic in the form of COVID-19 then it is understandable that WD should feel proud to be able to show future parents around at this point.

As the Principal of the academy the scale and quality of the new school can only be appreciated "up close". This has been a real learning experience for me and I have been able to contribute to some very detailed discussions relating to the facilities and finish. I know the staff and pupils simply cannot wait to move into the school in September and start to make the school into a "living" building. I have talked previously about creating a legacy, this is perhaps the first moment in that process where we can see that legacy start: the first pupils to visit the school happened this weekend, and those visitors are now part of the school's history!

The visits were organised by the school and conducted by WD senior staff who were able to provide expert guidance and information pertaining to the facilities and construction process. This is a first in the industry in terms of construction process and will result in the fastest completion of a school of this size in the country. The expectation is that this will provide the model for future construction.

Lastly the need to develop our provision for key worker children and when the guidelines changed for our year 5 children. The term "bubble" has suddenly taken on a completely new connotation in schools over the last few months and managing

this process with only three fulltime teachers has been "interesting". Fortunately things have gone well, over 85% of the school are now attending for at least two days and children are receiving the benefits of attending school, invaluable both socially and educationally.

Pix Brook Academy



















# Welcome to Campton

Campton Lower School is set to become the tenth school in BEST - the Regional Schools Commissioner approved Campton's application to join BEST and now we are working on the legal and HR aspects with a conversion date of early Autumn 2020.

Campton is already working very closely with BEST and both benefitting from and sharing its best practice. Current work with Campton includes significant support for school improvement activity with support from both Directors of English and Maths as well as SEN support. Once Campton formally joins this will be accelerated and we look forward to both supporting and learning from our new school.

The future looks bright for Campton as well – with the CBC Two Tier plans seeing Campton move into a new purpose built two form entry

primary from 2023.

Welcome to Campton and we are delighted you are joining us!

> keep you eyes peeled for brand new signage on all the schools sites in September.

### September – our promises to you – COVID19

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our schools in September. Our primary concern is the safety of our staff, our children and their families. Therefore, in accordance with government guidance (full guidance can be read here) all our schools have:

- Reviewed their H&S risk assessments and will publish them on our websites
- Separated classes into "bubbles", the size of which is dependant on the age range of the children
- Reviewed and amended timetables to minimise movement around the school
- Implemented controls to maintain social distancing where possible
- Where practicable, introduced one-way systems in corridors to reduce contact between groups
- Produced signage which promotes robust hand and respiratory hygiene practices
- Introduced protocols in the event of an adult or child starting to display symptoms of covid19 whilst in school, including the use, where necessary, of appropriate PPE and engagement with the NHS Test and Trace process
- Drawn up enhanced cleaning protocols for all areas including equipment, frequently touched surfaces and in the event of a positive case of covid 19 being identified
- Shared our plans with staff and trade union representatives

We will continue to review our practices throughout the term especially if new guidance emerges. We would ask that you help us by ensuring that if you, or a member of your household has or displays symptoms of coronavirus, that you do not attend school.

## Communications Officer

EDV/2020/BSTL/61688

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