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Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited, BEST House,
Shefford Road, Clifton, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5QS



Wednesday, 17 November, 2021

Dear member of the BEST community,

Since BEST was established in 2016, we have been focused on providing the very best education we can for our pupils and families. Our core values centre around improving outcomes for children and raising educational standards. We remain committed to these beliefs.

Our Board of Trustees received a response to their open letter to the CBC Executive late on Monday, 15 November, 2021.

We feel sharing the letter, from CBC Leader Councillor Richard Wenham, with our communities is the right thing to do as this is a clear departure from the cluster plan agreed as part of a public consultation process in the summer of 2020 – we attach it here for your information.

We are disappointed with the response, including several contestable points, and CBC's admission that the five pledges – upon which our support for the Schools for the Future programme was conditional – cannot all be met.

Now is not the time for a kneejerk reaction, though. We need time to reflect fully on what this means for our schools, and the move towards two-tier.

Our Trustees held an extraordinary meeting yesterday to start this process, and plan to meet with our school Principals and Chairs of Governors in the coming days and weeks.

We also want to take time to talk and listen to our parents and families, and the communities our schools serve.

Dr Alan Lee
CEO & National Leader of Education.



BEST Schools: BEST Nurseries, Campton Academy, Etonbury Academy, Gothic Mede Academy, Gravenhurst Academy, Langford Academy, Lawnside Academy, Pix Brook Academy, Robert Bloomfield Academy, Samuel Whitbread Academy and St Christophers Academy.

Company Registration Number: 07546141 VAT Registration Number: 120 7845 28 BEST has exempt charitable status by virtue of being an academy trust.

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We share Cllr Wenham's desire to work together with CBC to develop solutions to the current issues, and we will continue to do so.

BEST schools in the cluster are successful schools. Please be assured that as things stand, pupil places are secure.

When we have further developments to report, we will communicate these with you.

Thank you.

Ilona Bond

Paul Walker

Dr Alan Lee

Anthony Sanderson

Claire Mycock

David Morgan

Jerry Tonge

Bedfordshire Schools Trust Board of Trustees

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