



16th July 2020

Dear Families and Friends,

You will be aware that on the 30th June the Schools for the Future Consultation had closed, and we were eagerly awaiting the report to be provided by the Local Authority. On the 3rd July this was published, and the Shefford Lower School/Board of Governors feel it is important for you to be aware of the feedback provided to the Local Authority by the Shefford and Stotfold community. The recommendations from the report will be taken to the Executive Committee on the 4th August. The outcome from this meeting will be released late summer (the date is yet to be confirmed by the Local Authority).

The report suggests that the Shefford and Stotfold community was in favour of all schools moving to a two-tier system of Primary and Secondary. 86% of respondents supported the proposed change in education landscape in response to the anticipated growth in pupil numbers. However, other comments did highlight concerns over lack of infrastructure, space, traffic increase, accessibility, and the potential lack of school places.

62% of Shefford Lower School respondents disagreed with the proposal, mainly in the reduction of student numbers. Based on the comments provided by many, the concerns were around fair distribution of places between Shefford Lower School and the newly proposed school. This will create an imbalance as part of the BEST Academy site on the other side of town - infrastructure, and traffic/access arrangements were deep considerations here.

I would also like to draw your attention to the comments made around Campton School and its relocation. Many families were in favour of the proposal but raised concerns around the distance of the relocation and the school not being part of the village. Encouraging an increased amount of traffic into Shefford due to the distance from the village and potentially changing the catchment of Shefford Lower School.

In summary our school community has suggested that they are in favour of a 2 tier, Primary and Secondary setting, but disagreed with the reduction in numbers and raised concerns around infrastructure, access and traffic.

We implore the Local Authority to listen and consider these concerns raised by the community and anticipate the decision from the Executive committee later this summer.

Yours sincerely

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