



Parents and Carers  
BEST Shefford and Stotfold Cluster Schools

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** MEC/bmh  
**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Schools for the Future – update on Shefford and Stotfold Cluster Schools**

I am writing to update you on our Schools for the Future plans to move the first, middle, and upper tier schools into a new system of primary and secondary schools in your area.

The reason why we are making this change is to help improve educational attainment and progress for all pupils. This is, and will remain, one of this Council's top priorities and to achieve this we need to have the right schools of the right size and in the right places.

The Shefford and Stotfold cluster of schools is one of the earlier groupings of schools moving into this major Council wide programme. Lower schools which are part of the Henlow Pyramid have already made the change to becoming primary schools, and Henlow Church of England Academy has also converted to a secondary school.

Since our earlier school consultations undertaken during 2019 - 2020, we have recently published our Local Plan. This sets the direction of travel for future housing growth in Central Bedfordshire and takes account of the significant changes which have taken place over the last 18 months.

We have now completed a check of the likely number of school places we need against this new Local Plan. The conclusion of that population and housing check is that we will now need fewer new school places than we originally thought. This means we will need to look again at some of the proposals for school changes in your area and share these in a consultation with parents and carers and the wider community. We hope to give you more information later this term on what the new plans might be and our arrangements for seeking your views.

In the meantime, thank you again for your support for the Schools for the Future programme and for your patience as we move forward with amended proposals for Shefford and Stotfold.

Yours faithfully

**Marcel Coiffait**  
Chief Executive