

Partnership News

The newsletter for the Melton and Vale of Belvoir school reorganisation

TRANSFORMING YOUR SCHOOLS – WE'RE ON THE WAY!

Significant progress is being made on the £45 million revamp of education in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir.

Over the next four years this exciting and challenging transformation will see:

- Belvoir High School redeveloped to form a 600 place trust school for ages 11-19, with strong links to local businesses
- New schools built on the John Ferneley and King Edward VII sites, in addition to the redevelopment/extension of Long Field High School. Each school will have 800 places for ages 11-19
- A new Post-16 Centre, jointly managed by the area's four secondary schools, will be built on the Burton Road campus of the King Edward VII school to which students from the above schools will transfer at age 16
- Changes to primary schools in the Vale of Belvoir to accommodate pupils up to Year 6 (age 11).

Work is now well under way to enable these changes. Progress has been made over the summer on devising curriculum choices and specialisms for each school, in addition to discussions with architects on a vision for the new schools and consulting on the Belvoir High School Trust. But there is so much more to do.



Key milestones to look out for...

- February 2008 - Formation of the Belvoir High School Trust
- September 2008 - First admission of Year 10 (ages 14/15) students to Belvoir High and retention of Year 6 (age 11) pupils in the Vale primary schools. Adaptations to primary school buildings completed
- Summer 2009 – Completion of the building work at Belvoir High and the extension of Long Field High School
- September 2009 – Admission of the first Year 10 students at John Ferneley and Long Field High School. First stage of new build at Brooksby Melton College, Brooksby Campus. Commencement of joint governance arrangement for Post-16 Centre
- Summer 2010 – Building work completed at John Ferneley, King Edward VII, the Post-16 Centre and Brooksby Melton College, Melton Campus
- September 2011- First students admitted to Post-16 Centre direct from all 11-16 secondary schools.

These are just some of the exciting developments – giving you a flavour of things to come!

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of Partnership News!

This is a new, regular newsletter dedicated to keeping you up-to-date on the pioneering reorganisation of schools in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir.

The reorganisation is about raising standards of attainment and achievement for our pupils/students, whilst maintaining current school excellence.

This can only be a success with schools and our other partners working together – sharing expertise and offering the widest possible educational choices.

There are exciting times ahead, look out for future issues of Partnership News to hear more about the latest progress.

If you have any feedback on our newsletter, please call the Public Relations Unit on 0116 305 6967 or e-mail: mstretton@leics.gov.uk

Developing the Post 16 Vision

There will never have been a better time to be 16 in Melton than in 2010. The Melton community has always enjoyed excellent post 16 provision – King Edward VII sixth form has enjoyed a tradition of academic success and earned plaudits from Ofsted, whilst Brooksby Melton College has been expanding at a rapid rate by providing high quality vocational provision. The future looks even brighter.

Leicestershire County Council has given the green light for a state of the art £11 million academic Post-16 Centre on the Burton Road campus of the King Edward VII school. This will open in 2010 as a jointly managed, area wide facility for local secondary schools.



The centre has the potential to harness the best of the current A-level provision at King Edward, together with the emerging post 14 expertise at John Ferneley High, Belvoir High and Long Field High School.

From 2011 teachers will increasingly be drawn from all the schools, ensuring not only high quality learning, but also a sense of continuity and belonging for the new sixth formers. In addition, the centre will have a core team of dedicated, high quality staff.

Headteachers from each school, including Birch Wood Area Special School together with the County Council, have been looking at some of the most exciting post-16 buildings in the area. The best elements of each design are being carefully assimilated in order to give Melton a building it can be proud of. A breathtaking exterior façade will match the exciting opportunities and learning that the centre will provide.

For more information, contact Fraser Mitchell, Post-16 Director at King Edward VII Technology College and Training School, on 01664 851010.





Keeping you informed

A communication group has been set up to help ensure you are kept informed of the latest developments in the local school reorganisation.

The new group will be helping to keep parents, students, local residents, school staff and governors up-to-date with what is happening.

Secondary, primary and special headteachers, teaching and support staff, school governors and pupils/students will be represented on the group.

The representatives will be drawn from the range of schools in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir involved in the programme of change and seeking to develop a spirit of partnership working.

Look out for new webpages on the County Council's website at: www.leics.gov.uk/meltonvob later this autumn dedicated to keeping you up-to-date on the reorganisation. In the meantime, for more information call David Atterbury on 0116 305 7729, e-mail: datterbury@leics.gov.uk

Working together on our schools' future

A vision for the curriculum opportunities and specialisms at each partnership school is taking shape.

The current specialism at King Edward VII is in technology and as a training school.

Prospective specialisms to be developed for each of the other schools have been identified. They are:

Belvoir High – Science

John Ferneley – Business and Enterprise

Long Field – Sport

A draft statement has also been put together by headteachers setting out curriculum opportunities. Pupils/students will be provided with a much richer curriculum offering a broad range of GCSEs, GNVQs and vocational diplomas, in partnership with Brooksby Melton College.

Further work is being undertaken by the partnership's curriculum group. They will be looking into how the curriculum will be delivered.

The level of staff and student movement across the town, the best length for teaching blocks and the use of IT in enhancing curriculum delivery are all being investigated.

For more details, contact Chris Robinson on 01664 565901.



Trust status at Belvoir High School

The government is providing £5.9 million to extend the curriculum and expand the age range at Belvoir High School from 10-14 to 11-19. A condition of the funding was that the school should change status by becoming either a faith school or a trust school. After much deliberation and consultation, the governing body decided to take the trust option.

The trust will work in an advisory and supportive capacity at the school, drawing upon the expertise and knowledge of trust partners to enhance the provision for our pupils. In every other way, it will operate as a foundation school.

Our trust partners will include the Brooksby Melton FE College, the Vale Churches, PC World, Richard Tollemache, the National Farmers' Union, British Geological Survey, and, of course, the Children and Young People's Service of the County Council.

Once it has changed status, the school will continue to operate within Leicestershire County Council's local agreements in respect of pay and conditions of service. This means that there will be no change for staff except that they will now be employed by the school and not the Council.

The trust will bring a distinctive vision enabling the school to work closely with the local community to benefit everyone. Belvoir High



School will maintain and build on its position as a key provider in the area for the whole community. The school will work in partnership to support aspirations and development across the Vale.

Consultation has now concluded and having responded to the views arising from that process, the governing body will issue the necessary statutory proposals soon after half term. The school is expected to become a foundation and trust school at the beginning of February next year.

For more information contact the school on 01949 844920 or visit: www.belvoirhigh.leics.sch.uk

If you require the information contained in this newsletter in an alternative version such as large print, Braille or tape, or help in understanding it in your language, please contact: **0116 305 6967** or e-mail: **mstretton@leics.gov.uk**

