

Partnership News

The newsletter for the Melton and Vale of Belvoir school reorganisation



Building for the future

Exciting times... plans unveiled for Long Field



Artist's impression... how the new John Ferneley School will look

A major milestone has been reached on the exciting plans to refurbish and rebuild new secondary schools in the spectacular £45 million project for Melton and the Vale of Belvoir. Work has begun on some of the schools and plans have progressed significantly on others.

Work has also started on the £5.9 million extension and refurbishment of Belvoir High School. The school's new extension will include a range of state-of-the-art classrooms and a new library. These will be based around a striking atrium that will be used for teaching and for socialising. A block laying ceremony will be taking place to mark the start of work. The new extension will open for teaching in September 2009.



Starting work... Belvoir High headteacher, Jon Sherwin (left) and deputy head, Paul Ainsworth (right) with building manager, Terry Downes

Plans for the impressive new £15 million John Ferneley High School have been given the go ahead. The new school will have a whole range of facilities including science and design laboratories, classrooms, dining and assembly halls. It will also incorporate all the latest environmental features. A special turf cutting ceremony is to take place to mark the start of building work at John Ferneley. The new school should be completed by spring 2010.

There are exciting times for Long Field School too as plans are unveiled for a £5 million extension. This will include an amazing two floor learning resource centre, sports hall and sports-science laboratory, a central IT hub, extended dining hall and a new Year 7 base. Parents, pupils and members of the public were invited to view the plans on September 30th. To see them, visit www.leics.gov.uk/meltonvob

Watch this space for further developments!

Welcome to Partnership News!

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

The reorganisation is about raising standards of attainment and achievement by pupils, building on current school excellence.

This can only be a success with schools and other partners working together – sharing

expertise and offering the widest possible educational choices.

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

Transforming education

More progress made

Tremendous progress has been made to transform the way education will be delivered to young people in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir.

A new personalised approach to learning, the ground-breaking use of ICT and a pioneering new curriculum are all to be introduced as part of the £45 million reorganisation of education.

By working together, the schools are developing a new personalised approach to learning across the partnership. They will take into account the stage at which a young person's learning is at rather than simply being based on their age. This includes a chance for students to take qualifications earlier.

Brand new ICT developments will allow young people to access their work anywhere at anytime. They will be able to submit work and receive feedback online. Parents will be able to receive updates and information online too.

An exciting new curriculum will see each school providing all the core subjects such as maths, science, English and a comprehensive range of options. Students from age 14 will also have the pioneering opportunity to study courses being delivered by other partner schools if they wish to do so.

There will be an increasing number of new diplomas available over the next five years, for ages 14-19. This will supplement the first two diplomas for Creative & Media Studies and Engineering introduced this term.

Different diplomas will be delivered at different schools, an exciting new Post-16 Centre and at Brooksby Melton College. The other new diplomas will be in subjects including Business & Finance, Sport & Active Leisure, Science, Engineering and Travel & Tourism.

Pupils will study at one of the partner secondary schools between ages 11-16, then at the Post-16 Centre. Belvoir High has had its first intake of Year 10 students this term and the Vale primaries have retained their first Year 6 pupils. The changes to age ranges will be introduced at the other partner secondary schools in Melton from next year.



Groundbreaking ICT... pupils at Belvoir High School



Special visit... County Council Chairman, Tony Kershaw, with pupils at Croxton Kerrial Primary

Chairman visits newly extended Croxton Kerrial Primary School

Staff and children at Croxton Kerrial Primary School in the Vale of Belvoir played host to a special visitor when Tony Kershaw, Chairman of the County Council, came to see them and their newly finished school!

The school which has been completely transformed has a new extension to accommodate Year 6 pupils, a new library, staff room and a new reception and Headteacher's office. An additional classroom has also been created by taking down an internal wall between the old school office. The rest of the school has also been refurbished to bring it up to a higher standard and become a seamless part of the new extension.

The first day back after the summer holidays brought sounds of amazement from children and parents when they saw the new look school for the first time! Here's what

some of the new Year 6 pupils had to say:

"Having the new extension has been a big change and it feels more grown-up, like it is getting Year 6 ready for high school."

"I think the library gives us time to look at books and reflect – there's more room to move about. Our classroom is nicer because of the colours and decoration."

Amanda Woodland, Headteacher at Croxton Kerrial Primary, said:

"We are absolutely delighted with the new extension and it will make an enormous difference to what we can offer pupils in the future."

Work at other primary schools in the Vale of Belvoir is also progressing well including the completion of a new classroom extension at Bottesford Primary School and the start of work at Redmile Primary School to build a new hall.

Students get top marks!

A record number of students from Melton and the Vale of Belvoir received top marks for A-Level and GCSE exams this year!

An incredible 98% of pupils from King Edward VII achieved pass grades at A-Level with more than 70% achieving A to C grades, and that's not all! The school also celebrated a seven percent improvement on last year's GCSE results with 59% of pupils gaining five or more A* to C grades. On top of that 99% of pupils achieved a GCSE pass in at least one subject.

Further success was achieved by pupils at Long Field School when they made history by becoming the first ever pupils at the school to pass their GCSEs. The 22 students aged 14 did themselves and their school proud by getting between them, a massive 16 A* grades, 3 As, 2 Bs and a C!

Rob Garrett, Headteacher at Long Field School, said:

"The results are a testament to the hard work of pupils and staff at an exciting time in Long Field's development. These pupils have set the benchmark for other students in the school who will, from this September, be completing their Key Stage 3 and 4 studies at Long Field."

Graham Horsewood, Executive Principal at King Edward VII School, said:

"These results are a marvellous achievement for students and show that there is a whole lot more to strive for at King Edward VII. The results reflect all the hard work put in by both pupils and staff and are a real tribute to everything that the school stands for – dedication and commitment to providing first class education."

Deadline for school places

Are you a parent whose child is due to move up to secondary school next year? If so, now is still time to choose which of the partner schools you would like them to attend.

The deadline for admissions for children transferring from primary to secondary, and also from infant to junior, is 20th October.

This is a tremendously exciting and important time to be choosing which of the partner secondary schools you would like your child to attend.

For the first time, thanks to the creation of a shared catchment area and changes to school age ranges, parents in Melton will be able to choose from all three

of the town's secondary schools which will all be teaching pupils aged 11-16. Pupils can also now attend Belvoir High from 11-16, the catchment area for this school remains unchanged.

By working in partnership, the four secondary schools in the area are able to offer wider choice and more opportunities. Each of the schools will teach all the core subjects as well as a range of specialist options.

From the next academic year, each of the schools is also expected have its own distinct specialism (see pictures below):
Belvoir High – Science, Long Field – Sport, King Edward VII – Training and Technology, John Ferneley – Business and Enterprise.

The exciting new specialisms will give pupils the opportunity to benefit from attending a school offering a distinct area of expertise.

To take advantage of the new opportunities, it is very important that parents apply on time for their child's school. This gives your child the best possible chance of being offered a place at your preferred school.

If you have yet to apply, you can do so at: www.leics.gov.uk/admissions or by returning the form sent out to you in the post.

For more information, or an application form, call the County Council's allocations section on 0116 305 6684.

New School Specialisms



Long Field – Sport



Belvoir High – Science



John Ferneley – Business and Enterprise



King Edward VII – Training and Technology

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

