



Unity Church of England Multi Academy Trust

Wednesday 5th July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware a stakeholder consultation was carried out between 21st March and 28th April 2017 considering two alternative proposals for education in Great Barford:

- **One Primary School across both sites accommodating pupils from Year R to Year 6**
- **One Primary School 'Plus' across both sites accommodating pupils from Year R to Year 8**

The stakeholder combined response, along with the Unity CEMAT Board recommendation and business plan, was submitted to the Diocese for consideration.

Whilst the consultation responses favoured a Primary Plus School, the analysis of the business case showed that this model was not financially viable due to the two tier changes in both Bedford Borough and Sandy.

The Diocese of St Albans Board of Education approved the resolution to move towards one Church of England Primary School serving the children of Great Barford and the surrounding area. They recognised that in doing this that Alban CE Academy would close.

Great Barford Lower School converted to an academy and joined Unity CEMAT on 1st June 2017. Great Barford Primary Academy is soon to assume Church of England status.

Great Barford Primary Academy will remain, providing a single school serving Years R to 6 as well as a pre-school provision. **There will be no Year 7 and 8 provision in Great Barford from September 2018.**

From September 2018 Great Barford Primary Academy (GBPA) will deliver a one form entry Primary Education across the two existing sites. The school will also offer a pre-school provision catering for children from 2 years and 9 months to 4 years old.

Mrs Sarah Evans remains as the Headteacher of GBPA and is working closely with governors, the MAT Board and Mr Chris Chipperton from Alban Academy to plan the future structure of the Primary School.

There will be opportunities for parents from key year groups to meet with the Headteachers of the two schools and Colin Foster, Director of Children's Services for Bedford Borough Council, to discuss the impact of this decision. The Principals of both Mark Rutherford School and Sandy Upper School, will also be in attendance on the 13th July.

Current Year 4 Parents - 12th July, 4.00pm at Great Barford Primary Academy
Current Year 5 Parents - 13th July, 4.00pm at Alban Academy
Current Year 6 Parents - 13th July, 6.00pm at Alban Academy
Current Year 7 Parents - 13th July, 8.00pm at Alban Academy

Yours sincerely,

Nick Papé
On behalf of the Board of Unity CEMAT

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What does this mean for your child?

Current Y3 Pupils (Y4 in 2017-18)

Those children moving to Year 4 in September 2017 and those in the years following will continue at Great Barford Primary Academy until the end of their Year 6 when they will transfer to secondary school for Year 7 through the normal admissions process. The Great Barford Lower School uniform will remain unchanged apart from the name on the sweatshirt; older versions will still be able to be worn.

Current Y4 Pupils (Y5 in 2017-18)

Those children transferring to Year 5 in Alban Academy in September 2017 will become the first Year 6 cohort at Great Barford Primary Academy in September 2018. The two schools are working together closely to ensure that the transitions are as smooth as possible. Alban Academy uniform will continue to be worn in this year group in both Year 5 and Year 6. Transfer to secondary school for Year 7 will be done through the normal admissions process.

Current Y5 Pupils (Y6 in 2017-18)

Pupils will stay at Alban in Year 6 until July 2018. During the 2017-2018 academic year application for entry into Year 7 at a secondary school will need to be made through the Local Authority's admissions process. Pupils living in Great Barford will have access to Mark Rutherford School (nearest Bedford Borough school) and Sandy Upper School (nearest school); both of these options will have a transport entitlement. Parents of other pupils will make application to their nearest secondary school if they wish to use the transport entitlement and/or can express a preference for any other school with a Year 7 intake although these will not have a transport entitlement. Despite attempts to find a solution, Samuel Whitbread Academy will not have a Year 7 entry.

Current Y6 Pupils (Y7 in 2017-18)

Pupils can move into Year 7 and stay at Alban until July 2018. During the 2017-2018 academic year application for entry into Year 8 at a secondary school will need to be made through the Local Authority's admissions process. Pupils living in Great Barford will have access to Mark Rutherford School (nearest Bedford Borough school) and Sandy Upper School (nearest school); both of these options will have a transport entitlement. Parents of other pupils will make application to their nearest secondary school if they wish to use the transport entitlement or can express a preference for any other school with a Year 8 entry or space in that year group although these will not have a transport entitlement. Despite attempts to find a solution, Samuel Whitbread Academy will not have a Year 8 entry.

Current Y7 Pupils (Y8 in 2017-18)

Pupils can move into Year 8 and stay at Alban until July 2018. During the 2017-2018 academic year application for entry into Year 9 at a secondary school will need to be made through the Local Authority's admissions process. Pupils living in Great Barford will have access to Mark Rutherford School (nearest Bedford Borough school) and Sandy Upper School (nearest school); both of these options will have a transport entitlement. Parents of other pupils will make application to their nearest secondary school if they wish to use the transport entitlement and/or can express a preference for any other school with a Year 9 entry although these will not have a transport entitlement; this includes Samuel Whitbread Academy.



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Useful Contacts

Bedford Borough

School Admissions

School Admissions Service
Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP

Tel: 01234 718120

Email: admissions@bedford.gov.uk

School Transport

School transport Entitlement
Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP

Tel: 01234 718004

Email: school.transport@bedford.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire

School Admissions

Tel: 0300 300 8037

Email: admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

School Transport

Tel: 0300 300 8339

Email: school.transport@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk