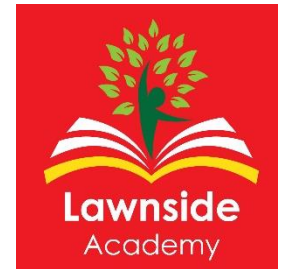


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21st February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

The conversion of Lawnside Academy from a lower school to a primary school has taken a major step forward after capital funding was agreed by Central Bedfordshire Council.

The financial support comes alongside approval by the Council's Executive for maintained schools in the Biggleswade cluster to move to the two-tier model of education.

The transition is set to take place in September 2024, with academies and maintained schools across the cluster becoming either primary or secondary.

CBC's capital funding package includes £14m from Homes England's Housing Infrastructure Fund and will enable the construction of new buildings and facilities at schools that will require changes to support their transition from three-tier.

This is a major step forward for the Biggleswade cluster and CBC's approval of funding paves the way for an exciting new future for Lawnside as a primary school. BEST is currently working closely with the DfE's Regional Director for the East of England on our change of age range application, which is a requirement as part of the parallel process for academies.

I am looking forward to the plans for our school being finalised and, subject to planning consent, the implementation of agreed building changes starting later this year. The design and planning is in progress for additional classrooms as well as other facilities to support the transition to the two-tier model of education.

We will communicate any new information to you, including the planning consent timescales, as and when it becomes available to us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cheryl Johnson'.

Cheryl Johnson
Head Teacher

