

Wixams Academy

Newsletter

Principal's Welcome

Greetings to you all. What a busy but exhilarating autumn of 'sod-cutting', open evenings, Halloween fun days, news of a new primary school and even a brief TV appearance!

Firstly, I would like to thank the children, families and community who have supported us and share our excitement for the future. I am pleased to say that we have seen an unprecedented demand for school places and we have a full opening year group for 2017. Please see the admissions section below for further details.

With less than a year to opening, the school building process is going very well, aided by a beautiful late summer and autumn. Following on from the Mayor and Lakeview children 'cutting the first sod' in early October, we expect to see the first steel structures go up before Christmas and the school take shape quickly from there.

I was delighted when it was announced that our Trust, BCAT, has been given Council and Government backing to run the new 'Wixams Tree' Primary School. Opening with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes in 2017, the school is being built next door to Wixams Academy, which will create a unique educational campus in the heart of Wixams. BCAT is committed to these two new schools working in close collaboration with existing primary schools, including Lakeview and Wilstead, to support a strong and excellent educational community for local families.

I trust you will find the rest of our newsletter interesting and as always, please email or call to discuss any aspect of Wixams Academy or your child's education with me.

Paul Spyropoulos

Principal, Wixams Academy

Mayor helps building work get underway at Wixams Academy



Turning of the first turf by the Mayor of Bedford Borough on site of the new Wixams Academy secondary school with prospective pupils from Lakeview Primary School took place on Wednesday 4 October.

Principal of the new secondary Paul Spyropoulos and Bedford College Academies Trust Director

Mark Kiteley were there to share the historic occasion as they look forward to the school opening with Year 7 pupils in next September.

Visit our website for more on this story:

www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/wixams-news

Halloween Event

Paul and Kay had a fun time at the 'Nightmare in Wixams' Halloween Street party that was held back on Saturday 22 October. It was great to speak to so many families, many of whom will be joining us next September. Hope we didn't scare too many of you in our costumes.

Special thanks to the organisers, Wixams Events Team, for putting on a great event and inviting us along.



Saturday Morning Event

We would like to invite families who have applied for a school place to attend a pupil/parent workshop that we will be hosting on a Saturday morning in January 2017.

Within this workshop we aim to split this into two elements.

- A pupil workshop: Designing a Time Capsule
- A parent focus group: School uniform

Invites and further details will follow shortly.

Information Events

Thank you to all those who have made it along to one of our Information Evenings. The energy and support you brought to the events was superb and we greatly value your support, questions and input.

These evenings do always raise important questions, so I thought I would clarify some important areas.

Admissions:

We are taking admissions directly via our website: www.wixamsacademy.co.uk this year. This process is separate to the 'Bedford Borough Admissions Process'. The application deadline has now passed (Monday 31 October). You may still apply, however applications received before the deadline will be prioritised when we make formal offers in March 2017. Wixams Academy application forms can be found on our website at www.wixamsacademy.co.uk

When you apply to us, you will receive a formal letter and regular updates. We will then write to you with a formal offer in March 2017.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs:

Breakfast club will start at 8.15am and a simple breakfast of toast and a drink will be free. After school clubs will run from 3.45pm-5.30pm Mondays to Thursdays (with compulsory Homework Help/'Prep' until 4.15pm two afternoons per week). Most after school clubs will be free, with the exception of those requiring specialist equipment or tuition.

We will organise Friday evening after school provision (from 4.15 to 5.30pm) if there is the demand. There would be a charge for this supervision.



Subsidised Mini-bus Services:

We will be providing two subsidised minibus services. We will review routes in March 2017 to assist as many of families as possible, but based on current interest and applications, we will cover the following areas:

Service 1: Marston Moretaine > Stewartby > Wootton > Kempston > Elstow > Wixams

Service 2: Bedford Town Centre > London Road Bedford > New Cardington > Shortstown > Cotton End > Wilstead > Wixams

We will charge £5 per week return fare, unless children receive free school meals, in which case transport will be free of charge.

Mini-buses will arrive at Wixams Academy at 8.30am and leave at 4.20pm each day.

Who are BCAT?

Bedford College Academies Trust (BCAT) was established to develop and provide the highest quality education to local young people. Our commitment to Bedfordshire means that we are fully focussed on this area alone, meaning that all of our resources are locally available at all times.

BCAT has gone from strength to strength since its creation in 2013, with an impressive track record of success. BCAT and its sponsors have created three of the four largest 16 to 18 institutions in the county; helped to create Bedford's first Academy and first Free School; turned around the results of the county's only UTC and acted as founding Chair of the North Bedfordshire Schools Trust, one of the largest and most successful in the country, comprising 19 primary and secondary schools.

Building designs

The latest view of Wixams Academy from our Architects, Lungfish. We can't wait to see the school take shape over the coming weeks and months.

