

13th January 2022

Buntingford First School Press Notice:

Hertfordshire County Council can now provide an update on the status of the proposed new two form of entry First School for Buntingford. The County Council has been working closely with the Scholars' Education Trust who are delighted to run the new school, which is needed to provide more school places for Buntingford families. Because of unavoidable delays, the School won't now open in its new state of the art facilities initially. However, HCC and the Trust are working hard to bring forward the school on a temporary basis at the Edwinstree Middle School site from September 2022. The new school would open in temporary classrooms with access to Edwinstree School's core facilities such as the hall, gymnasium and extensive outdoor play areas. The Scholars' Education Trust, HCC and Edwinstree are confident that this arrangement provides the best possible start for the new school and its pupils, in advance of its permanent trailblazing accommodation being ready. Whilst the new school would be hosted temporarily at the Edwinstree site, it would be an entirely separate entity providing an outstanding educational experience for all its first school pupils.

It is planned the school will be able to relocate to its permanent home by Easter 2023. The new build will be the first fully net zero carbon-built school in the County. This is in-line with the County Council's sustainability strategy and its ambition to be Carbon Neutral in its operations by 2030.

Prospective parents can apply for Reception places for the September 2022 intake at Buntingford First School through HCC's admissions website Buntingford First School | Hertfordshire County Council | www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

In this, its first year of opening, Buntingford First School, has a separate application process for Reception admissions and the school can therefore, be a "fifth preference", in addition to the four preferences expressed on the usual HCC application form. The new school will be open to pupils across all other year groups from September 2022 and In Year applications for a place in Years 1-4 can be made in the summer term. More information about the new first school can be found at www.buntingfordfirstschool.co.uk

Quote from Executive Member for Education HCC

Quote from Matt Gauthier, Executive Headteacher of Buntingford First School

"I am really excited about being the Executive Headteacher for Buntingford First School, the wonderful opportunities the school will provide for the children of Buntingford and the chance to build strong partnerships with Edwinstree Middle School in the next academic year. Shortly we will complete an important next step with the appointment of the Headteacher and other key staff to ensure we create a vibrant, dynamic and nurturing environment for our children".

Norfolk Road : Buntingford : Hertfordshire : SG9 9AW

T: 01763 -271446 F: 01763-274005 E: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk W: www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

