

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you and your families have had a very restful and enjoyable summer break. I am writing to share with you what we hope is some exciting news regarding the college and local education.

Last year the college and other Oadby high schools presented a formal consultation to the community with a proposal to change the age range of children that Beauchamp educates from 14-19 years old to a more traditional 11-19 school model. This proposal was formed in consultation with our partner primary schools as we sought to work closely together to further improve the quality of education within Oadby. We received some very valuable feedback from this consultation and listened carefully to the concerns raised with regards to capacity. One of the key messages we received from our community was that the sixth form at Beauchamp was highly valued, had an excellent reputation and was trusted to deliver high quality post-16 education.

Alongside this, we have recently found some of the subject choices that we offer to our young people are extremely popular and have been increasing in popularity- so popular, in fact- that they have become over-subscribed. The most popular subjects include the sciences, mathematics and computer science.

We understand that young people are driven by the desire to study subjects that they enjoy and that they have an aptitude for; we also understand how important it is for young people to make well-informed choices post 16 and how this can impact significantly on their next steps towards their chosen career or vocation. It is our desire to facilitate this and to ensure that students have every opportunity to fulfil their potential. We want to ensure that we have enough high quality places for our students and wouldn't want them to have to settle on a course that wasn't their first choice.

Recognising how valued our sixth form is and striving to ensure we have enough high quality places to meet the needs of any individual who wishes to study at Beauchamp have looked closely for an innovative solution.

After much research and consideration, Beauchamp applied to the New Schools Network (NSN) which is an independent charity that runs a development programme providing tailored support to groups who desire to open a Free School.

We are very pleased to share with you that we have been awarded a place on this national development programme and we are currently working closely with advisors at NSN to put together a proposal for a 16-19 free school in Leicestershire that will create 500 additional sixth form places.

Meeting the demands of our local community is a key goal and the new post 16 Free School will specialise in STEM education; and specifically offer science, mathematics and computer science courses that lead to careers in a range of fields including medicine, engineering and IT.

Our vision for the Beauchamp Post-16 Free School is one of a comprehensive institution that creates a range of exciting opportunities for passionate young people, regardless of their backgrounds to excel in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering and/or computer science. We pledge to forge strong links with universities and with industry to create enriching educational opportunities and real work-based placements to provide our students with a deep learning experience, fully preparing them for the world beyond education in their chosen profession. We envisage a brand new facility, offering state of the art equipment which maintains and extends Beauchamp's high standards and that upholds our ethos of striving for excellence for all.

We would be very happy to hear your views and opinions regarding this application and would like to provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you might have. We have created a website containing some further information www.beauchamppost16freeschool.org.uk (live early next week) and we will be hosting a community evening at Beauchamp on Wednesday 2nd September, from 6.30pm which you are welcome to attend. There will an opportunity to book tickets for this event via the website.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or concerns regarding this new proposition.

Wishing you and your families an excellent start to the new term.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Kelly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kath Kelly
Principal