

Maiden Beech Academy

Lyme Road, Crewkerne, Somerset, TA18 8HG

Tel: 01460 72677

e-mail : office@maidenbeech.net

Headteacher: Carl Winch BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH



Saturday 14th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

IMPORTANT: SCHOOL REORGANISATION IN CREWKERNE & ILMINSTER – PLEASE READ

Following the Council's Cabinet meeting on 21st October, a decision has been made to proceed to formal consultation, which commenced on **Thursday 12th November and will end on Friday 11th December.**

We urge all parents to share their views and thoughts through the consultation process.

It is essential that parents fully understand how these proposals will affect Maiden Beech Academy and the children currently attending the school; the school would be changed beyond all recognition.

The table below shows the implications for children currently attending the school and those children who would potentially join the school in Year 5 next September (current Year 4 in the first schools)

Children currently in Year 4	Would join Maiden Beech in Y5 and remain in the school for two years before transferring to secondary school in September 2023
Children currently in Year 5	Would leave Maiden Beech at the end of Y6, transferring to secondary school in September 2022
Children currently in Year 6	Would leave Maiden Beech at the end of Y7, transferring to their new school a year earlier in September 2022
Children currently in Year 7	Would leave Maiden Beech at the end of Y8, as normal, transferring to upper school in September 2022
Children currently in Year 8	Would leave Maiden Beech at the end of Y8, as normal, transferring to upper school in September 2021

Potentially, this means that in September 2022, the new secondary school will have to transition three year groups at once. This is over 500 children and would require significant planning.

THE IMPACT ON MAIDEN BEECH ACADEMY

If the proposals are implemented, the following is likely to happen:

- The majority of current staff will leave, face redeployment or, worst case, redundancy.
- The number of children attending the school, and the number of classes, would be drastically reduced – see table below.
- Specialist facilities such as science labs, DT workshop, art, music and drama rooms will be largely redundant.
- The building and site, which have benefited from over £2 million worth of capital investment, will not be fully utilised; a huge waste of public money.
- The building and site would require significant investment to modify classrooms and outdoor areas to accommodate much younger primary aged children.

The table below shows predictions in terms of the number of children on roll at Maiden Beech Academy and the number of classes across the school.

Academic year	Number on roll at MBA	Number of classes
September 2020	407	16
September 2022	147	6 or 7
September 2023	120	6
September 2024	180	7 to 9
September 2025	240	9 to 12

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The following link will take you to the Crewkerne and Ilminster Strategic School Review page of the Somerset County Council website:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/crewkerne-and-ilminster-strategic-school-review/>

This page provides some background information and explains how you can respond to and comment on the proposals via an online consultation (see link below).

The page also provides details of virtual public consultation events, which are taking place via Microsoft Teams Live. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the events; however, the events highlighted in red below are the most relevant in relation to Maiden Beech Academy. Please note the first event for all schools is **next Tuesday (17th November)**.

In order to attend a virtual event, you need to do the following:

1. Visit the consultation page, **using the hyperlink above**.
2. **Click on the link below the event** you wish to attend to register your attendance and receive a link to the event you wish to attend.
3. **Click to 'Register' for the event** and follow the on screen instructions to enter your personal details.
4. **Click 'Register' again** and you should be booked on to the virtual event.
5. You should receive a notification email from Eventbrite. In this email click on 'View the Event'
6. **Click on the hyperlink that opens up in a new window** and you will be directed to Microsoft Teams, which can be accessed either through the Teams app or via the web instead. We would strongly recommend a practise run beforehand!

Here are details of the virtual events. The events most relevant to Maiden Beech are highlighted in **red**.

Tuesday 17th November: 5:30 – 7:30 PM – ALL SCHOOLS

Wednesday 18th November: 7:45 – 9:45 PM – to discuss Misterton First School

Tuesday 24th November: 7:45 – 9:45 PM – CREWKERNE SCHOOLS

Thursday 26th November: 4:15 – 6:15 PM – ILMINSTER SCHOOLS

The following link will enable you to access the consultation questionnaire:

<https://somerset.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/CISP/consultationHome>

Maiden Beech Parent Forum Meeting: Monday 23rd November: 7:00 – 8:30 PM via TEAMS

In addition to the events organised above by Somerset County Council, we will host an independent event for the parents of children currently attending Maiden Beech Academy to further discuss the

implications of the proposals on the school.

This will be via Microsoft Teams, but unlike the SCC events, there will be an opportunity to comment and ask questions verbally, as well as using the chat function within Teams.

Link to Teams Meeting:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjlkOWUxM2ItYmU0NC00YzdmLWEzMWUtNzM2YThhZWRiMTU2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22fce62890-d441-4099-9534-d3a421d65ff3%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22d52448e5-19af-4306-a220-438465ebdefb%22%7d

I am happy to receive any questions ahead of this event, which we will endeavour to answer on the night. Simply email the school office (office@maidenbeech.net) or send in your question via the Parent Portal.

PARENTAL SURVEY

Please can all parents complete the following survey, which can be accessed using the link below. Whilst this is not part of the official process, the results of the survey will be fed into the consultation by the school. The survey will only take a few seconds to complete and will help us to understand how parents are feeling about the proposed changes.

Link to survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G75ZY7T>

Finally, it should be remembered that, as an Academy, Maiden Beech is its own admissions authority and cannot be forced to change its age range. This decision can only be taken by the Board of Trustees and the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Thanks for your continued help and support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Winch', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Carl Winch
Head teacher