

Headteacher: Mr Kevin Day BA(hons) NPQH

## Questions arising from Consultation

4 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	
1.	<p><b>Question:</b> Will there be any implications for more cars parking on Warden Hill Rd?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Currently 100% of all staff and visitors park on-site at Belmont and we plan to continue with this, therefore there will be no need to park off site and add to the parking issues for the local community. The governors have recently agreed up to £35,000 for Belmont to expand the number of parking spaces and improve access to the site, making it safer for children and visitors. The plans include many additional parking spaces in currently unused areas of the school site.</p>
2.	<p><b>Question:</b> Is it possible for all three schools to work together and create a one way system to help with traffic management on the Warden Hill Road?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Currently the schools are all committed to working together to reduce congestion and improve student safety on Warden Hill Road. An example of this is that the schools have slightly staggered start and finish times to avoid all three schools starting and finishing at the same time. Belmont leaders and governors, along with the other schools, are happy to explore future ideas to support traffic management. All three schools are linking with local councillors on these issues.</p>
3.	<p><b>Question:</b> Will the SAND MAT actually help the children more? Some academies have wasted money on highly paid senior staff and this is not good for the children.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The SAND MAT is not sponsored by a large national academy chain so there are no plans or proposals for lots of additional very highly paid senior staff. The schools involved in the SAND MAT already work together and hope to improve provision for children by; purchasing and commissioning services on a larger scale, sharing best practice and resources between schools and making direct applications to the DfE for improved facilities.</p>
4.	<p><b>Question:</b> Do we need to complete the feedback form we have received?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Any stake holders can feed into the consultation by e mail, coming into school (as you have) or by returning a written response. We have recorded your questions and answers today so these will be considered. You are very welcome to express additional views within the time scales of the consultation.</p>

9th July 2019	
1.	<b>Question:</b> How many students do you have here?
	<b>Response:</b> Currently we have 129 and the school is expected to grow slightly to 139 in Sept 19.
2.	<b>Question:</b> How many staff do you have?
	<b>Response:</b> We currently have 47 staff and several of these are part time
3.	<b>Question:</b> Do your staff all park on site here?
	<b>Response:</b> Yes all staff and visitors park on site. During pick up and drop off the site just has capacity to hold all the parents and taxis so we don't block access nor need to park on Warden Hill Rd. During this year Belmont has allowed for an extra 10 spaces to be used by Bettridge.
4.	<b>Question:</b> Has the school grown over recent years?
	<b>Response:</b> Yes the school has slowly grown to meet the needs of the county and the LA. 5 years ago the school had 105 children and on average has grown by around 8 students each academic year and this Sept we will have 139 on roll.
5.	<b>Question:</b> Where do the children come from?
	<b>Response:</b> The majority come from Cheltenham and Gloucester with many living in Hesters Way area and also Wadden. As all the Glos special schools are specialist and not generic we do have some children traveling from across the whole county to access learning here.
6.	<b>Question:</b> What does the school hope to gain from MAT, is it back office savings?
	<b>Response:</b> Yes this is one vision to attempt to have a little more funding for staffing in the future by having central services for payroll, HR etc. We also plan to build on our excellent links with Milestone and other special schools. The governors have always been keen to work with local schools and have an excellent relationship with Bournside and Bettridge. We also hope to apply for grants direct from the DfE and further improve the building and facilities.
7.	<b>Question:</b> If you convert the main access driveway presumably it would remain in the ownership of the LA and the LA could block access. This is a concern as Bournside Close is not suitable now and in the 1980's when the access road was used there were extensive issues and vandalism of both the school and homes in the Close.
	<b>Response:</b> Belmont has a good relationship with the LA and they are not looking to block the MAT plans and have very recently just agreed to invest £500k into the school to improve the roof and play facilities. If Belmont joins SAND MAT the school will continue to have a close partnership with the LA as the LA need Belmont to provide placements for the SEND children and Belmont needs the LA to commission these places. So it would not be in the interest of Belmont or the LA to block access. Roger thanked Peter for the question and agreed to check with the LA that access would continue in the future if the school did join SAND.