



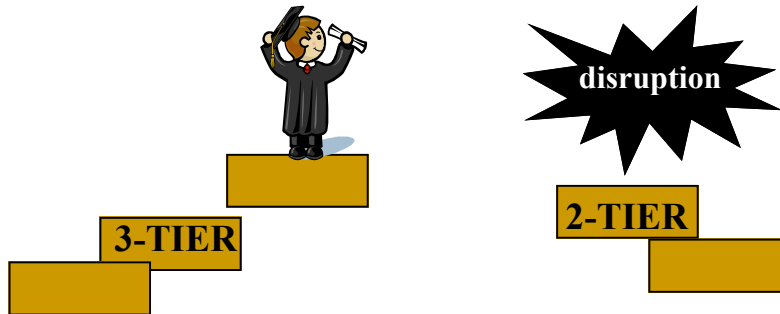
Middle School Supporters Action Team

Newsletter

May 2009
Issue No. 1

SAVE OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Middle schools could close and a whole generation of our children face having their education disrupted as the Middle School Debate is re-opened. All this just a few years after local parents stopped the former Beds County Council from doing the same thing.



Contact your councillors

The consultation period for the Review is due to start before the May half-term. Now is the time to contact your local candidates by letter, email, phone or when they come knocking on your door, to register your concern about this looming threat to our middle schools. A list of candidates' contact details, together with sample letters for you to adapt or use are available on the website below:



<http://saveourmiddleschools.tripod.com/>
www.savemiddleschools.wordpress.com



We've done it before

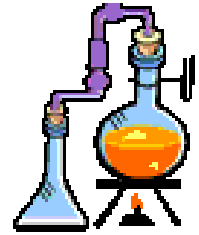
In 2006, proposals to revert to a two-tier education system in Bedfordshire were overthrown following overwhelming support from parents to maintain the three-tier structure. We can do it again – but we need your help and will keep you informed with regular updates via this website.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Bedfordshire's three-tier system was introduced to provide schooling to match the physical, social, emotional and academic development of our children during their middle years.
- We believe that our children in Bedfordshire's middle schools benefit from the range of specialist teaching and facilities that are available to them from the age of 9 – both during the day and after school.
- Our middle schools offer a secure, stable environment of an appropriate size, in which to nurture their growing self-confidence on their journey through puberty and into young adulthood.
- Much of the information in the local media about our education system is based on outdated statistics.
- Ofsted data now shows Bedfordshire schools as the most improving in England.
- In addition, Ofsted data proves that there is no significant differences in pupils' attainment between two- and three-tier structures.
- Ofsted data has found that pupils' personal development is better in three-tier systems.
- Every Council that has changed from a three-tier to two-tier education system has left a whole generation of children with lower attainment.



What's sparked this Review?:

Hundreds of millions of pounds of funding is available to the Council through the Government's Building Schools for the Future initiative and many councillors believe that the money would be best used to change Bedfordshire's education system to a two-tier structure. But the funding could be used to make improvements to the existing system without the need to close our schools and disrupt our children's education.

**Improving the 3-tier system
guarantees improvement**

Change only guarantees disruption

ACT NOW! - contact your councillors and candidates

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