



Middle School Action Team

Newsletter

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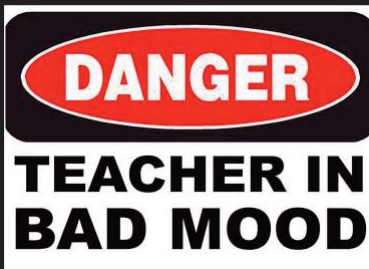
If Bedfordshire changed to two tier what exactly might that mean for our children?

ALL CHILDREN PRESENTLY IN YEARS 3-9

will be severely disrupted during their upper school education, as massive building projects would start in 2013 to extend these into new super-size secondary schools with an estimated 1800 pupils. This building work would be undertaken while our existing Years 7, 8 and 9 will be studying for and sitting their A levels and our current Years 5, 6 and 7 will be preparing for and taking their GCSEs.



ALL PUPILS FROM OUR CURRENT RECEPTION YEAR UP TO YEAR 7



will continue to be educated at our existing Middle Schools during a time when those schools have been destined for a 2015 closure. Good teachers will leave to find secure jobs, there will be a huge rise in supply teachers with an inevitable lack of continuity for pupils, funding will cease, morale will plummet – and, naturally, so will standards...



CHILDREN PRESENTLY ENROLLED IN RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2

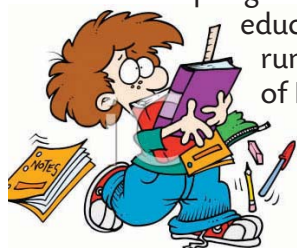


will suffer two-fold as they not only will be educated in a middle school that is in its final stages of closure, but also they will transfer to secondary school at the same time altogether. So that's around **800 new 11–13-year-old students** enrolling en masse in schools that have never before catered for Years 7 and 8. How do you think your 11-year-old would cope with entering a huge secondary school of 1800 pupils and travelling for miles on school buses together with much older teenagers?



OUR FOUNDATION CHILDREN, PRE-SCHOOLERS AND, IN FACT, ANY BABY BORN BEFORE 31 AUGUST, 2010

will become the guinea pigs of the new two-tier education system. They will start their education in the new (but still adapting) primary schools before moving at 11 – some from village schools of fewer than 100 pupils – to one of the new super-size secondary schools with a cast of thousands, where staff will inevitably still be struggling with the effort of adapting to the new system. And what will happen to their education if the BSF funding is pulled or the money runs out? Or if Bedfordshire follows in the footsteps of Northamptonshire, which changed to two tier in 2004 and now, five years later, has the most failing schools in the country? (Bedfordshire currently doesn't have any...)



Don't let our children lose their rights to a good education



Five years after changing to two tier, Northamptonshire has the most failing schools in the country

Changing to a two-tier system would cause massive disruption to a whole generation of Bedfordshire's school pupils. Consultation on our school structure ends on 24 July – and we have an option to retain the three-tier system and use BSF funding to further improve our existing schools. Give your views online at www.bedford.gov.uk/bsfconsultation or for more information visit: <http://saveourmiddleschools.tripod.com>