

19 July 2010

Dear parents / carers

As the term draws to a close, I wanted to say how much I have enjoyed my first few weeks here at Orwell! The staff and students have been incredibly welcoming and I have been pleased to see so much hard work going into changing the school for the better. Thank you to those parents / carers who I have met who have also made me feel so welcome too! I am really looking forward to continuing the excellent work of the school through the next academic year.

You may be aware of the situation that has been developing over the last week with regard to the new government's policy on Building Schools for the Future. I am writing to bring you up to speed on the latest developments and to let you know how you can get involved with our current campaign.

The government announced last week that the BSF programme would not take place for many schools across England. In Suffolk, 'wave 6' of the programme (including our project in Felixstowe) was stopped for all but two projects. One of those is the new Felixstowe Academy. The government lists this as 'for discussion' and I am currently working with our local MP (Therese Coffey), the Local Authority, governing bodies from both High Schools, The Felixstowe Learning Trust and the Academies Enterprise Trust (the academy sponsors) to let the government know how important it is that Felixstowe retains the investment of £32 million.

I want to take this opportunity to reiterate the argument I originally put forward through the BSF consultation process for one school on one site in Felixstowe:

- A brand new school on one site would allow the current high schools to be combined allowing for greater opportunity for personalisation of learning, opportunities to access courses and resources and operate more efficiently, providing value for money;
- We currently operate in buildings which are not fit for purpose. Education is changing and we need to be able to change the way we work to help students to learn more effectively. A brand new building would allow us to be able to design the building from scratch to suit the needs of the learner, rather than the other way round as it currently is;
- A new school would mean that we can put the educational past behind and build on the successes of the current schools to make something new we can all be proud of for our students.

In short, I want a brand new school with excellent facilities and outcomes to make a statement about education in Felixstowe for our current and future generations of learners.

If you want to get involved with letting the government know how you feel, then you can do the following things:

- sign our petition at <http://www.petition.co.uk/secure-investment-in-education-for-felixstowe>;
- contact our local MP through her website <http://www.theresecoffey.com/>;
- email your thoughts directly to me to collate through [office@deben.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@deben.suffolk.sch.uk).

Whilst there has been a great deal of debate about the merits of having an academy in Felixstowe, it is important that this is seen as a separate issue. It is vitally important to note that it is because we were on the journey to becoming an academy that we continue to have the opportunity open to us to receive capital funding for a new building. The fight here is not about the academy, but about winning the funding for a brand new school for Felixstowe.

Time is running out for you to let people know how you feel about this. The decision will most likely be made at the end of July. Please make your feelings known through the various channels listed above and together let's secure the £32 million investment in the future of education in Felixstowe. Have a great summer!

Yours faithfully,

Mr Cawley  
**Executive Headteacher**