

February 28th 2020

Dear Parents,

Update on Cheltenham's New School

Later today Gloucestershire County Council is making an announcement about the latest developments regarding Cheltenham's new school. As a key part of the Balcarras School community I wanted to make sure that you heard this news from me.

GCC has been asked to provide supplementary information in support of the planning application for the new school in order to ensure that the scheme meets the very highest environmental standards. Although the application is likely to be heard shortly it is now not possible to open the new school's permanent building in September 2021 (please see press release from GCC for more information).

We are working with GCC to look into the possibility of temporarily housing the new school on the Balcarras site until the new building opens in 2022. Plans to create new accommodation which would provide excellent facilities for the new school's pupils, before being re-purposed for use by Balcarras, are in development. Balcarras' Board of Trustees have responded positively to these plans and I want to reassure you that should they go ahead the arrangements will work for the pupils of both schools.

I want to make it clear that the new school would open as a separate entity to Balcarras even though it would initially be housed on our site. It would have its own Headteacher, pastoral system, admissions arrangements and separate modern accommodation. We intend to share some of Balcarras' specialist facilities but will do so in a way which does not affect the educational opportunities for Balcarras students.

I will be back in touch as soon as there is any more information to share with you.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher