



Dear Parent/Carers

Capacity Increase for Forest Way School

As you are aware Forest Way School is a highly successful and popular Area Special School which experiences a high demand for places.

We have been approached by Leicestershire Local Authority to support the increased need for high quality education for children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans in the North West Leicestershire area. To be able to help with this request we will need to make a Significant Change Request in order to increase our school capacity and teaching space. The significant change will involve submitting an application for approval from the Department for Education via the Regional Schools Commissioner. We will be seeking an increase to an overall capacity from our current on roll number of 245 (plus 12 places in the Communication and Interaction Unit) to 265 places in Main School (plus the 12 places in the Unit).

The application to increase our capacity further will be to include younger pupils, EYFS/Yr 1 that require a school place from August 2022. Accommodation for the two additional classes will be within a new modular building funded by the Local Authority, that will be ready in 2023. The proposed location of this new building, which will be subject to Planning Consent, is adjacent to the ball court area. Also included in this project will be the development of the land between the location of the new classrooms and the shared playing field area for Forest Schools activities.

As the modular building will not be ready until 2023, we are proposing to set up a temporary satellite base for the 2 new classes at Ashby Hastings Primary School from August 2022. It is intended that these places will be for the new pupils starting in August 2022, not current pupils.

This increase will not impact on the standard of education our pupils are currently receiving. Since our academy conversion in 2012 we have developed the school premises significantly to accommodate additional places which has included the purchase and development of The Croft, addition of two new buildings in 2019 and 2020 and refurbishment of Tennis Courts to create a Multi Use Games Area. The new buildings provided learning space for two additional classrooms and a Communication and Interaction Unit for 12 places.

The formal consultation period in respect of this proposal will be held for a period of 21 days commencing on 27th April 2022 and ending at 3.00pm on 26th May 2022.

If you require any additional information or wish to discuss any of the contents of this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Gail Seaton
Headteacher

