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NEWS

School set to get sixth form

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by [Hayley Cover](#)

Bicester's Cooper School looks set to get a sixth form – provided funding is available.

[Oxfordshire County Council](#)'s decision-making cabinet has backed plans to expand the Churchill Road comprehensive to take over-16s.

The school, which has about 1,000 students, would taken on another 200 students in the sixth form.

The proposal is part of plans to reorganise education for 14- to 19-year-olds in Bicester.

The town could also get a multi-million pound 14-plus Learning Centre could be up and running as soon as 2012.

The centre would take pupils from Year 10 upwards – and would be jointly managed by Cooper, Bicester Community College and Oxford and Cherwell College.

'This is a fantastic opportunity for us'

Headteacher Ben Baxter

Cooper School headteacher Ben Baxter said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for us.

"I have heard so many students and parents bemoaning about Cooper not having a sixth form.

"Historically the school was never built with the aim of running A-Level courses.

"When I joined in 2005 my role was to extend the opportunity of education and provision."

Bicester Community College headteacher Cynthia Bartlett said: "We look forward to sharing our expertise with the Cooper School and building together a strong Bicester sixth form."

County cabinet member for school improvement Michael Waine said it was vital funding was in place before the plans moved ahead, but added: "[Oxfordshire County Council](#) is committed to providing excellent educational facilities so that

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the county's children can have the opportunity to realise their full potential."

The cabinet will make a final decision after a four-week consultation period starting in January, followed by a final decision by the county council's cabinet.

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