



company no. 6865093

## **BEST Newsletter September 2009**

### **Bedfordshire East Schools Trust**

BEST has moved on a great deal since its acquisition on the 1st April 2009. We have had a number of very positive discussions with Central Bedfordshire and it is clear that working with CBLA in partnership in trusts will be the way forward for pyramids of schools in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many details are yet to be agreed but the strategy for the delivery of integrated children and family services will be via the CBLA Children's' Trust of which BEST will be a member. The BEST Board of Trustees have been joined by Martin Pratt AD Children's and Family Services and Anita Lewis Central Bedfordshire councillor and portfolio holder for Children's and Family Services. Integrated health, education, police and community services will be delivered by commission and in many cases through the BEST Children and Family Service Team. BEST Headteachers are meeting on a regular basis and looking to develop all through curriculum and pastoral systems. Successful bids to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the Extended Schools Executive mean that many seamless learning initiatives will be in place next year. There are a whole range of cross phase and vertically based clubs and activities springing up which will culminate in performances and displays from all the children and young people in the SWCC pyramid during the week of the BEST Festival 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010. BEST and its partners continue to look to develop the all through services and ICT infrastructure our schools need in order to create a seamless, all through learning experience for the 6327 children and young people in our schools. Add to this our community cohesion and regeneration projects and BEST schools are well on the way to creating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School our children and young people need to prepare them for their future.

### **Raising Achievement for All**

At the recent BEST BoT meeting it was decided that the BEST Headteachers would take forward the raising achievement for all strategy and a series of meetings has been arranged, starting with a heads and deputies meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Work has begun on producing a single timetable for the upper and 3 middle schools, joint appointments continue and discussions about the shared deployment of Pastoral Support Officers and Cover Supervisors is underway. The pilot of this initiative has worked very well as have several joint teaching appointments which have brought specialist teaching and support where it has been needed. The BEST lower school heads are meeting to look at how PPA time can be better financed and organised.

## **Whole Families Matter**

Our discussions with Central Bedfordshire, NHS Bedfordshire and Bedfordshire PCT, the Police, Extended Schools and the Ivel Valley Practitioner Based Commissioners continue and will centre around the co-location building and the co-location and integration of the children's workforce and the development of the Children's Trust. We have our agenda and strategic plan in place and look forward to taking it to the Children's Trust.

## **Seamless Learning**

A successful bid to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for two programmes, Learning Futures and Learning Away as well as a number of successful bids to 'Extended Schools' mean that a whole range of projects and initiatives aimed at producing a seamless learning experience for BEST children and young people are underway. Learning Futures and Away will enable BEST to set up a number of 'academies'. These will include activities ranging from sports to the arts to modern foreign languages. A Spanish Academy which will run from SWCC in the first instance and then the BEST Co-location building in the future will provide the opportunity for 5 families to learn Spanish together over 30 weeks culminating in a residential experience. The families will co-construct the course and speak only Spanish from the outset. Tutors will be provided as will BEST Champions but the families will take charge of their own learning, buy the resources and organise their own residential experience. BEST will be advertising for these families over the next few weeks to launch the programme in the New Year. Similar projects will be run for CYP and families for sports, drama, dance and other curriculum subjects.

The vertical clubs and activities that BEST is supporting along with extended schools are Cheerleading, Herb and Vegetable Gardens, bestphotocomp, bestfilmcomp and bestpoetrycomp

## **Community Cohesion**

The schools are looking to bring the whole community together with a series of BEST wide clubs and activities as well as pastoral and curriculum development. We are working with wecommunic8 ([www.wecommunic8.com](http://www.wecommunic8.com)) LowC (making low carbon communities happen) and the schools to produce zero carbon buildings for community use and a range of BEST projects. A BEST schools' prospectus is being planned as are BEST schools' planners and diaries. The winners of the bestphotocomp and the other entrants will have their photographs on display during the BEST Festival and will be included in the various BEST schools' homework planners/diaries.

## **All Through Infrastructure**

As well as the joint appointments of teachers and support staff BEST is also working with SWCC to put a single services infrastructure in place. The engineering specialist status of our middle schools will bring resources and expertise into the pyramid to help make this happen. Centralised

communications – a single e-mail syntax for example and data management will make tracking and improving pupil performance far easier and effective

### **BEST Events**

The competitions being launched in October are Photography is Community, Poetry is Community and Film is Community. We want all children and young people whether they are in school or not to enter. Entry is free and there are 3 £50 (token) prizes for each individual winner in each competition and a chance to win £450 in cash to set up your own vertical photography, film or poetry club at your school. All the details will be sent by e-mail and poster to your school, entries must be attached to an e-mail and sent to;

[bestphotocomp@samwhit.org.uk](mailto:bestphotocomp@samwhit.org.uk)

[bestfilmcomp@samwhit.org.uk](mailto:bestfilmcomp@samwhit.org.uk)

[bestpoetrycomp@samwhit.com.uk](mailto:bestpoetrycomp@samwhit.com.uk)

**The Royal Marines** will be at SWCC on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Jack Russell** – Motivational speaker - will be at SWCC on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Billy Schwer** will be at SWCC in April

To book (free) places for your children, young people to attend e-mail [best@swcc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:best@swcc.beds.sch.uk)

DEADLINE

To book (free) places to be in the audience for the NEW YEAR LECTURES 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at SWCC 1900 to 2000, e-mail [best@swcc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:best@swcc.beds.sch.uk)

### **Full details will follow by e-mail**

There are also a range of events leading to the BEST Festival – Billy Schwer has and will be at SWCC again in April 2010. The New Year Lectures happen during the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> January for mixed family audiences. Caius Gonville under/post graduates, Dons and Cambridge Engineering Department will explore cutting edge ideas in engineering, energy and transport which will compliment the BEST Schools Energy and Transport Projects our CYP will be putting together for display at this event. Applications for at least £100 per school to take part in this initiative can be accessed at;

[best@swcc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:best@swcc.beds.sch.uk)

The Director of Children's and Family Services **Edwina Grant** will be speaking at **SWCC on the 12<sup>th</sup> November at 1630** to an invited group of Headteachers, Governors and Lead Professionals. The theme will be

**A provocation – 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. Will schools and schools' trusts survive?**

## **BEST Festival 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

We now have a number of performances lined up for the BEST Festival. There will be a Cheerleading competition and the BEST Sports Day will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> July at Robert Bloomfield Middle School. There will be displays of films, photographs and readings from the entrants to the BEST Film, Photography and Poetry competitions which are being launched this month. The BEST Schools Energy and Transport Projects will also be there. As last year there will be BEST schools combined choir, drama and drumming performances as well as displays of curriculum work and performances that children have been involved in at their schools over the year. There will be live student and local bands – in fact we aim to include any and all work that our children and young people have done over the year. To get your club, activity, performance into the BEST Festival let us know what you would like to do on [best@swcc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:best@swcc.beds.sch.uk)

## **BEST Co-location Project**

Planning permission is now underway – we expect to be breaking ground in January. We will be posting the drawings and 3d views on our website but if you would like to see what we intend to build and what it will be used for contact us on [best@swcc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:best@swcc.beds.sch.uk)

## **BEST Membership**

BEST will be working with the Cooperative College over the next 6 months to develop grass roots membership, the regional forums and the elected trustees. There will be five constituencies, schools, parents, learners, the community and community organisations, each will have proportional representation on the forums and the board. The process will start with a series of discussions and workshops in January to train staff and promote BEST membership and its benefits.

## **BEST Partnerships**

BEST Strategic Energy and Transport Project will be developed in association with our partners, Central Bedfordshire LA, LowC and Hanson Loddington Partners Ltd. Together we will be 'Making low carbon communities happen'.

## **Vertical Events at Henlow Middle and SWCC**

Henlow Middle School held their annual Arts Week and SWCC had their Block Week 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Henlow Arts was a completely vertical event with the whole school engaged in a range of activities including music, dance, drama, art and performance. Each group had SWCC sixth formers who worked with the children to produce wonderful performances and art work. BEST hopes to see the results of this week at the BEST Festival in July. SWCC featured the vertical challenge and a series of curriculum based activities, including Billy Schwer.

Do any of the other schools have vertical activities taking place during the year?

**BEST is be very interested in promoting vertical events, weeks, teaching, learning, curriculum and pastoral work across the pyramid** – let us know about what you are doing and let's get together to take your initiative across the trust so that all the children and young people can benefit.