

BEST Academies in association with CBLA Extended Schools and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation

An academy is a vertical learning group of people of all ages, as far as is practical. The members of the group design their course and decide how and what they are going to learn and they learn collaboratively.

For example, there will be a Family Spanish group made up of families of people, the parents and or guardians, carers and their children. The members of the group will have a tutor to help them learn, to access resources and to co-ordinate and facilitate the sessions but the participants will learn and teach each other. The groups will be completely comprehensive. The courses are resourced by Bedfordshire East Schools Trust, Extended Schools and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation who will be resourcing a 'learning away' experience. The group will organise a residential learning programme of up to 4 nights stay to completely immerse themselves in their chosen field of learning – in this case Spanish.

The other academies currently on offer are;

- Spanish
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Mathematics
- English
- Poetry
- Media/Film
- Photography
- Science
- Family History
- Physical Education
- Archeology
- Performance
- Cricket
- Cheerleading

We are recruiting families now and also looking for 'tutors'.

We want children, young people and adults (CYPA) to learn of course but we also want order to encourage CYPA to continue with their learning beyond each phase of schooling. We would want to create all through partnerships with schools, local clubs and community organisations to minimise drop out at; school transitions, 16 and 18+ by having coach/team members and participants work alongside teachers, established coaches and BEST Champions (trained Sixth Formers from SWCC) in each of the academies and for CYP to be part of a single all through Academy..

Each academy will provide a 20-40hr co-constructed learning programme and a co-constructed residential learning experience. The programmes of learning, resources and residential learning experience will be 'free' to the participants. We would also envisage an Engineering Academy being set up in due course.

We believe the academies programme will make a significant impact on the following areas. (1) every child matters (2) extended services (3) CBLA priorities.

- (1) Stay safe
 - Be healthy
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
 - Achieve economic well being
- (2) Parenting support including family learning
 - Varied menu of learning opportunities
 - Community access to learning including adult and family learning
- (3) Support CYP to lead healthy lifestyles
 - Transform teaching and learning
 - Raise achievement for all learners particularly underachieving groups and children in vulnerable circumstances
 - For all CYP to enjoy going to school
 - Introduce a positive image campaign (BEST Champions) to promote CYP's achievements and positive contribution to communities
 - Promote and provide play, leisure, sport and cultural activities for all CYP and their families
 - Strengthen and improve relationships within families by encouraging positive parenting
 - Inspire our most vulnerable young people to raise their aspirations

And we will measure our success under the following criteria;

- NI 50 Higher levels of learner satisfaction and well-being
- NI 54 Increased parental satisfaction
- NI 56 Reduced obesity among primary school children
- NI 57 Increased CYP participation in high quality PE and sport
- NI 88 increased percentage of schools providing access to extended services
- NI 114 Reduction in the rate of permanent and fixed exclusions
- NI 110 Increase CYP and families' participation in positive activities
- NI 117 Reduction in NEET numbers

The academies will start to come on-line during the summer term although community gardening, physical education, media, family history and performance are already underway.

We look forward to your participation.