



7<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear All

I hope you had a wonderful summer.

I wanted to update you on the progress of BEST Ltd. There are now 7 full members, Samuel Whitbread Community College, Etonbury MS, Robert Bloomfield MS, Hitchmead SS, Gothic Mede LS, Derwent LS and Langford LS and 2 associate members, Henlow MS and Raynsford LS.

Shefford, Shillington and Southill Lower Schools are at Stage 4 of the process to become full members (statutory proposals) and Campton and Roecroft Lower Schools are on the Supported Schools Programme at stage 2 (consultation).

The VA/VC schools, Meppershall, St Mary's Stotfold, St Mary's Clophill and All Saints Clifton are in the position where their governors need only agree to join BEST and write a letter to us confirming their wish to become associate members (proforma letter attached).

The other lower schools, Gravenhurst, Haynes, Stondon and Fairfield Park are considering whether or not to join the supported schools programme.

During our first 6 months there have been some notable successes, securing the funding to build a nursery and co-located offices for NHS Bedfordshire/Bedfordshire PCT and the Ivel Valley Practitioner Based Services teams, Extended Schools, SCITT and the Community Police on the site of the old caretakers houses at SWCC. As well as the fantastic BEST Arts Festival, the BEST Sports Day and BEST Herb and Vegetable Gardens at SWCC, RBMS, Derwent LS and Langford LS in association with LandshareC4. We are just one step away from becoming a registered charity and we are working in close association with the new Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority, the DCSF and the Co-operative College.

During this academic year we intend to build upon and take these projects and partnerships forward. Having made successful bids to Extended Schools for funds to produce an even better BEST Arts Festival, a BEST Photography Competition (in association with Wecomunic8) a series of Christmas Lectures (in association with Caius college Cambridge and Cambridge Department of Engineering) and the BEST Sports Day, we hope to involve many more of the children and young people in the pyramid and the local community. We also intend to extend the scope of the BEST Herb and Vegetable Gardens Project. We will be bidding for funds to support BEST schools (£100 per participating school) to put together

exhibitions on the theme of Sustainable Energy and Transport to be displayed during the week of the BEST Christmas Lectures (proposed to be at SWCC 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December).

Details of these events and projects as well as invitations to participate and attend will follow in due course.

In addition, a number of groups of staff have met and worked on 5 strategic development strands, Raising Achievement for All, Seamless Learning, Whole Families Matter, Community Regeneration and All Through Infrastructure and Services. I would particularly like to thank the group of staff who met with the directors of Wecommunic8 (Earth from the Air). These meetings have secured a long-term partnership and those staff involved will see their ideas come to fruition over the next year.

Now that the foundations of the trust have been put in place, I am looking forward to an ever improving and developing partnership between the schools in the pyramid, the local authority, businesses and the community. I hope that over the next few months the schools which are not yet either full or associate members of BEST will consider becoming so. Please contact me or Cathy by e-mail or phone if you would like some further advice / support to become a member of BEST.

All the very best for the new academic year and I look forward to meeting you all again soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian F Kite', written on a light-colored background.

Ian F Kite  
CEO BEST Ltd