

## Community through Diversity

Dear learners, parents and staff,

It is time for another summary of the progress Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Ltd has made over the past two months. More detail can be found at [www.best-schools.org.uk](http://www.best-schools.org.uk) and the BEST Development Plan (attached).

BEST Headteachers and deputies will be meeting (again) on the 10<sup>th</sup> December to discuss and approve the way forward to **Raise Achievement for All** in our pyramid of schools. The key discussions centre on developing an all through curriculum delivered through a single timetable and supported by an all through **Children and Families Services** team deployed across the trust. By acquiring the trust we have a proper framework by which our aim of creating a Seamless Learning experience for our 6350+ children and young people can be realised. Joint and shared appointments continue and our member lower schools met recently and resolved to identify resources to recruit and deploy specialist teachers in Maths (in association with CBLA), Dance, Drama and Music as well as Modern Foreign Languages. We have now made significant progress in our discussions about effective continuous professional development and have added the formation of **BEST Training Trust** to our strands of development.

In association with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, having won a bid for £164,000 to deliver our Academies programme, we now have the resources to further develop our **Community Cohesion** plans. Over the coming months we will be setting up a range of learner and family led programmes of study leading to residential learning experiences. These academies include, family Spanish, history and cookery, a media academy, as well as academies to develop co-constructed learning experiences in archaeology, gardening, production (arts performance), sports therapy and cricket. We are supporting these academies with a mixture of direct grant funding and competitions. Three competitions and a project have been launched this month. Best Film, Best Photography, Best Poetry and Best Sustainable Energy and Transport Project – all attached.

Our vision for an integrated **All Though ICT Infrastructure** continues to make progress. Detailed discussions with a number of possible partners including Samsung and more particularly Viglen have and are taking place. We are looking to partner with The Extra Step and Total Promotions, who are a catalogue and web based promotional merchandising companies and Viglen who provide ICT services, infrastructure and learning devices to education. We are looking to create a BESTWebshop so that our parents, learners, staff and community can purchase everything they need for effective learning, ranging from uniform and PE kit to high performance laptops and notebooks.

We are making excellent progress in our aim to transform teaching and learning in our schools with the collaboration and cooperation of our partners. Central Bedfordshire LA now have two non-executive trustees on our board and we have established formal partnerships with the University of Bedfordshire, Bedford College, Caius Gonville College Cambridge and the Cambridge Department of Engineering, LowC Consultants, the Hanson Leddington Partnership (architects). We have an excellent partnership with CBLA and we look forward to working more closely with Viglen Ltd, The Extra Step, Total Promotions, The Pearson Group, SCITT and Training School as well as CBLA Sure Start Early Years and Extended Schools. BEST has been accepted by the Central and Eastern Values and Principles Committee of the cooperative Alliance and we have invited the Cooperative Alliance to have a non-executive trustee on our board. We now have the partnership framework in place to take BEST schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The **BEST Co-location Project** is fully underway. Planning permission is being sought to construct a purpose built nursery and suite of offices to deliver integrated children and family services in partnership with NHS Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire PCT, SCITT, Extended Schools and the Community Police. Demolition and construction are due to start in January 2010. The building will be an exemplar of low carbon construction and with its combined heat and energy pump will even be able to provide power to the national grid. We are working with our partners at LowC to develop and promote the **BEST Sustainable Energy and Low Carbon Strategy** which promises not only to minimise carbon emissions (schools in CBLA contribute over 50% of the CBLA carbon footprint) but will reduce or eliminate any 'carbon tax' and significantly reduce energy costs. We have two other co-location projects in the pipeline and we are talking with two local nurseries to see how by working collaboratively and cooperatively we can improve children and family services and make a significant contribution to the delivery of the CBLA Children's and Young Peoples' Plan.

To this end I have joined with Adrian Rogers, Patrick Shevlin and their team who are currently taking the CYPP 'road-show' around the authority, talking to and consulting with head teachers and governors about the transformation of teaching and learning and how the delivery of key services can be best led and managed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I will also be joining other Central Bedfordshire Chief Executive Officers on the CBLA Children's Trust Board. BEST is in an excellent position to help deliver the 18 CBLA priorities within the framework of Every Child Matters.

BEST is now at the stage where our partners will be bringing their proposals to the BEST Board of Trustees. At our meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> December Adrian Miller will be speaking to the board concerning All Through ICT Infrastructure and the distribution of electronic learning devices and Dave Goode will speak about the formation and development of Training Trust. At the February meeting John Knott (Pearson Education) will make a presentation on the development of MFL teaching and learning and there will be a presentation about the creation of the BESTWebshop.

**The BEST Festival** at SWCC is really starting to take shape, so please preserve all the children and young peoples' work, performances and displays and have them ready for the week of 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Rehearsals will take place during the week of 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July at SWCC – we will be providing transport to get your work, performers and displays there. If you wish to be involved in the festival contact [emmaloupanton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emmaloupanton@hotmail.co.uk) [Bethany.Corbin@googlemail.com](mailto:Bethany.Corbin@googlemail.com) and [lauren.skelding@ntlworld.com](mailto:lauren.skelding@ntlworld.com)

If you would like any further details or you have any questions about BEST Ltd or the contents of this news update which are not answered at our website [www.best-schools.org.uk](http://www.best-schools.org.uk) then please do contact us at [best@swcc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:best@swcc.beds.sch.uk)

Kind regards,

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