

21st October 2009

Dear Colleague

Phase 6 Supported Schools Programme – March 2009

Thank you for submitting an Expression of Interest to join the Supported Schools Programme. I am pleased to inform you, on behalf of the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) that your application has been successful, and I would like to welcome you onto the programme.

The DCSF has informed your Local Authority that you have been accepted onto the programme, and we would like you to inform your Chair of Governors and potential partner organisations as you consider appropriate.

Ministers have also confirmed that each school will be able to access up to £10,000 start-up funding. This funding can only be used to support expenditure incurred in setting up the trust. Further details about claiming the grant will follow shortly.

We, the Trust and Foundation Schools Partnership Consortium, consisting of SSAT, YST and FASNA have been contracted by the DCSF to provide you with guidance and support through the process. I would strongly recommend that you visit the consortium website www.trustandfoundationschools.org.uk where you will find useful information, case studies and documents to support you in becoming a trust school.

The Regional Team Leader will be contacting you shortly to discuss your trust proposals and your specific needs, and then a consultant will be assigned to work with you. The consultant's role will be to provide you with guidance and support as well as tracking and monitoring your progress through the trust process. At this stage it would be useful for you to identify areas of particular need and also how you may wish to use your consultancy entitlement. In some cases schools have engaged their own Project Manager in addition to the consortium assigned consultant to support them with the trust process. If you should decide to engage this type of additional support then it is essential that the school and / or Project Manager liaises closely with the assigned consultant, as there is a statutory requirement for the school to provide us with regular and accurate data on progress, which in turn is shared with the DCSF.

www.trustandfoundationschools.org.uk

Working in partnership to support Trust & Foundation Schools



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

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You will also have the opportunity to attend Networking Events which are free of charge and only available to schools on the Supported Schools Programme. The dates for the next series of networking events are:

Wednesday 4th November 2009 – Bristol
Thursday 5th November 2009 – Leeds
Wednesday 11th November 2009 – London.

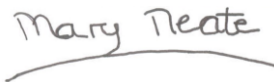
These will be full-day events with inputs from a range of different live trust schools, providing you with the opportunity to learn from others, discuss issues, ask questions, share practice and develop strong networks regionally and nationally. I would strongly encourage you, members of your staff, potential trust partners and governors to attend these events as they will deepen your understanding of the trust process and extend your repertoire of strategies for success.

To secure a place at a seminar, please visit www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk. Go to the date and time of the seminar you wish to book and complete the online form. If you have any queries please contact Jessica Hann on 020 7802 0967 or jessica.hann@ssatrust.org.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your successful application and should you have any queries or require further assistance then please do not hesitate in contacting the consortium office 020 7802 0967

I wish you every success through the trust process and I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Neate". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Mary Neate
National School Support Manager