

## **BEST Directors' Meeting**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 16:00-18:00

SWA, Block 20, Room 914

### **Attendees**

Peter Little (PL), Lorraine MacDonald (LM), Alan Lee (AL), David Shelvey (DS), Paul Walker (PW), Ilona Bond (IB) and Nafia Baust (NB)

### **Apologies**

Julie Hollings and Cathy Piotrowski

**Minute taker:** Yvonne Humphryes (YH)

**Notification of any perceived conflicts of interest:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Previous minutes approved and signed

### **Agenda items:**

1. Due Diligence – St Christophers
2. Warden Project Update
3. Key Stage Targets progress and SWA Challenge Partners report
4. Admissions table
5. Principal at SWA and GMA and Director of Teaching School appointment
6. Pix Brook Free School application
7. RBA-SWA Joint working

### **Due Diligence – St Christophers**

St Christophers Due Diligence report was reviewed, discussed and all Directors based on the evidence provided were satisfied that the school has strong leadership, delivers good results and has a good school improvement model. A previous area of weakness has been around St Christophers finances, these are currently well controlled and over the past two years an infrastructure has been put in place to keep finances in order; this is also an area where BEST can support.

**Decision:** A unanimous decision from the Directors to proceed with taking on St Christophers Academy with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

**Action:** NB to contact Catherine at Reach2 as she's very experienced in taking on new schools.

### **Warden Project update**

Conversations have been had with our solicitors, Freeths, who have reviewed the contract and have made some modifications. The contract is now with Nigel Lewis, in theory he has no problems with the amends and will speak with his solicitors. Once the contracts have been approved, DS will liaise with the EFA to get their approval. A further update will be provided at the next Directors' meeting.

### Key Stage Targets progress

2016 results across all key stages showed BEST schools achieving 44% of the targets measured against local and national averages.

This half term Principals have submitted their forecasts for achieving their 2017 targets; these are predicted to be 83%.

AL has one to one meetings with all of the Principals over the next two weeks and will discuss any possible areas of concerns, with a view to offering support through the Teaching School.

### Challenge Partners reports

Samuel Whitbreads' (SWA) report has helped to identify areas for improvement, Nick Martin and his team is currently working to address these.

Etonbury Academy (ETA) has their Challenge Partners review taking place in March 2017.

### Admissions 2017-18

Applications for admissions reviewed. ETA has received applications for 222 places with a PAN of only 150.

**Decision:** Directors approved an increase in to 180 on roll.

It was felt that to go above 180 could compromise the quality of education and as such, any further increases to the numbers on roll would be subject to additional funding from the Local Authority to resource the growth without compromise.

There is capacity for additional children at Langford Academy.

**Action:** YH to schedule a meeting with Directors, Alex Prior and the Local Authority.

### Principal and Director of Teaching School appointments update

The SWA Principal role is currently being advertised with a closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> February; interviews 20<sup>th</sup> February.

The Gothic Mede Principal role will be advertised March 2017 - detailed timeline to be confirmed.

The Director of Teaching School role is currently under discussion with the relevant people.

### Pix Brook Free School application

BEST have been invited for interview on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

### RBA-SWA Joint Working

SWA and Robert Bloomfield Academy have undertaken a curriculum review with an external expert; the purpose of the exercise is to look at getting a more seamless curriculum across the two schools. The feedback session will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> February – an update will be provided at the next meeting.

**Next meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

