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DFES SECRETARY OF
STATES PRIVATE OFFICE
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From:

28th October 2004

Private and Confidential

New Secretary of State,

The Prince of Wales has asked me to ensure that you received a copy of the recently published feasibility study which examined the future potential development of the Prince of Wales Education Summer Schools, and to which your department kindly contributed funding. I submitted a copy previously, but in addition to the further enclosed copy, I wanted to include a copy of an Executive Summary, prepared for His Royal Highness, which tells the story of the paper and sets out three options for moving the project forward.

You will note that these consist of:

- a proposal to create a new Prince of Wales Educational charity which would be charged with delivering a new teacher training initiative or "institute"
- a proposal to create a new partnership with a UK university, using the Business in the Environment arrangement at Cambridge as a possible model
- a proposal to develop an initiative under the auspices of an existing Education charity such as Teach First

After recent discussion, our preferred route to is to develop the idea of a partnership and to begin drawing together criteria for such an arrangement which would maintain the ethos of the current Education Summer Schools whilst broadening and deepening its impact around the country. We would intend to stage a residential event at Dartington Hall, Devon (the venue for the first school three years ago) in June 2005, which would act as a "launch" platform for further activity including the creation of an alumni association, a series of half-day or one-day events and other elements, all of which would fall into the category of Continuing Professional Development. It might be that School-Centred Initial Teacher Training activity could also be developed as part of the initiative.

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If the partnership idea were to fail, then we would move to the option of creating a new charity. Clearly, the principle challenges associated with each option are securing appropriate funding and appointing a Director with appropriate support staff, before too long.

I know that The Prince of Wales would be keen to know your views on the enclosed findings, but in the meantime, this comes with His Royal Highness's warmest good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Charles Clarke M.P.
Secretary of State for Education and Skills



CLARENCE HOUSE

MSX DN1-1
Cllr

Dear Secretary of State 24th November, 2004

If you can bear to receive a report on this year's Education Summer School from someone with such old-fashioned views (!), I particularly wanted to express my gratitude to you for your continuing support of this venture which, as you will recall, was held in Buxton at the end of June. Judging by the structured feed-back and reporting by the teacher delegates, they all got a great deal out of the event and, by all accounts, are applying some of the elements learned in their own classrooms.

Quite apart from the impact of the third of my Summer Schools, I do hope that you have had an opportunity to read some of the Feasibility Study which my office sent to you recently, and which I believe opens the way towards the creation of a teacher training institute. If there were issues which you felt needed greater explanation, or indeed exploration, perhaps you would kindly let me know. I need hardly add that it would be absolutely marvellous if, having contributed to the Study, you felt able to continue supporting the initiative into 2005 and beyond... But perhaps I am now too dangerous to associate with!

In the meantime, I am delighted to be able to enclose a post-course brochure, together with a copy of the Evaluation Report for the 2004 School in Buxton. Both have been compiled by the School's Steering Group, under its Director, Bernice McCabe, and I believe they make fascinating reading. There is, I think, a very real sense that the Schools have identified a gap in the teaching of English and History and, I might add, have set about bridging it. My Summer Schools are also challenging the fashionable view that teachers should not impart bodies of knowledge, but should instead act as "facilitators" or "coaches," a notion which I find difficult to understand, I must admit.

I very much hope that you find the reports stimulating and I do once again want to thank you most warmly for your invaluable support.

Yours most sincerely
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14 February 2005

SW
Thank you for the copy of the Prince of Wales Education Summer School Feasibility Study, as sent by a letter dated 28 October. My apologies for the delay in responding. I am aware of the interest that Charles Clarke took in the Summer Schools and have seen his letter of 31 January in which he confirmed, with my agreement, that my Department would be happy to fund the Summer School at the same level for 2005 as it had done in 2004.

It is reassuring to learn from your survey that teachers' responses to their experiences at the summer school have been so very positive; especially their confirmation of the school's lasting effects on their confidence and working practices.

It was also interesting to read about the options for expansion of the summer schools programme and network. I can see that, in principle, there are many worthwhile activities and projects proposed.

After some consideration, in terms of financial support, we are not in a position to provide direct funding for ongoing programmes of continuing professional development and initial teacher training such as those proposed in the Feasibility Study. As you will appreciate, there are a number of very high-quality providers of both CPD and ITT and it is important that the department offers any larger-scale ongoing funding through fair and competitive processes.

I do recognise however that there is much potential for valuable teacher support in the proposals, and would not want to discourage further exploration of their viability. I strongly support the study's suggestion of liaising with the Teacher Training Agency, and think this would be an important next step for setting up CPD and ITT provision, since I believe any new training programmes would be most effective if delivered through existing TTA structures.



If further advice is required, may I suggest that contact David Hopkins here ? I know that David would be happy to consider any further suggestions arising from their discussions.

Your Obedient Servant

Ruth

RUTH KELLY



HIGHGROVE HOUSE

22nd February, 2005

Dear Secretary of State,

I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Education and Skills. I suspect it may not be the easiest of tasks, so I can only wish you well!

I understand from your predecessor, Charles Clarke, that he has spoken to you about my most recent letter of 24th November, and specifically about the impact of my Education Summer School for teachers of English and History. This Programme, which involves up to ninety state school teachers each year, has been held over the past three years at Dartington, in Devon, at Dunston, in Norfolk and at Buxton, in Derbyshire. I believe that they have added fresh inspiration to the national debate about the importance of English Literature and History in schools.

The Summer Schools to date have been generally judged to be enormously successful with an extraordinary line-up of individuals who did not contribute as educationalists, but as experts in the fields of Literature and History. The teachers who attended in 2004 and previous years felt that they had been offered a new perspective on their subjects, rather than the theory of education.

Despite having made substantial progress, as you may be aware I remain convinced that the current approaches to teaching and learning need to be challenged, something now acknowledged by some of the professional agencies themselves! The Schools have, in my view, provided ample evidence that teachers themselves are more than willing to look again at what they do and consider whether they are doing the best they can.

Building on the success of these Summer Schools, I am keen to provide the opportunity for a further eighty, or so, teachers of English and History to come together to engage with the questions from first principles as to why teach English and History. Why are these subjects important? What should we be teaching in these subjects? How should we be teaching these subjects? In addition the 2005

course will include teachers who have previously attended as the first step in building an Education Summer School alumni body referred to in the feasibility study which I understand that you have seen.

I hesitate to write to you when I know how busy you are but I wonder if there is any chance that you could come and speak at this year's Summer School when it will return to Dartington Hall, Devon. The School is scheduled to run from Tuesday, 7th June to Friday, 10th June inclusive and you would, of course, be very welcome to participate in all, or some, of the sessions.

The Course Director, Bernice McCabe, who heads the hugely successful North London Collegiate School, would be delighted to provide you with further details, but I thought you might like to glance at the post-course brochure from Buxton, which I enclose for your information. I do so hope you will be able to attend as I am convinced that last year's event offered something very beneficial for all those who participated.

Yours most sincerely

Murray



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25 March 2005

Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 22 February about your Education Summer Schools, and for the enclosed post-course brochure from Buxton.

I understand from your office that when your letter was sent, you had not yet received my letter of 14 February in which I responded to the Summer School Feasibility Study. I enclose a copy for your reference and would like to reiterate my suggestion that contact Professor David Hopkins if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you also for your kind invitation to me to speak at this year's Summer School at Dartington Hall, Devon. Unfortunately, due to diary pressures, I will be unable to attend the event.

However, my Permanent Secretary, Sir David Normington will make every effort to be present. Mr Andrew McCully, the Delivery Director of the School Standards Group would also like to attend if you are content. Perhaps his office could be in touch with the Bernice McCabe's?

As you will know from his letter sent to you in January, Professor David Hopkins will also be attending. By then he will have taken up his post as the first HSBC iNeT Chair of International Leadership at the Institute of Education, University of London. He is very keen to participate and as well as representing the Institute of Education at the Summer School he will bring with him his experience here at DfES.

Your Obedient Servant

RUTH KELLY

