Thank you for the opportunity to speak at last night’s Sheffield governors’ evening briefing.  I was helpful to hear feedback, and get a better understanding of the issues.  I hope people feel better informed about the education reform programme.

The main linkages to the White Paper and Schools causing Concern Guidance are set out in my presentation.

**MAT Toolkit**

I also promised to provide ca link to the East Midlands and Humber Toolkit for MATs and sponsors. This can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.woldsteachingalliance.org.uk/mat-tool-kit/>.

The Toolkit has been developed from the sessions the RSC has run with Trusts this year with the core purpose of sharing best practice. It includes the presentations from our Sponsor Development Programme alongside example best practice tools and templates. Many Trusts have generously contributed to the content for this site and while it is important to emphasise it is still  work in progress, we are very grateful to those Trusts who have shared their material with us so far.

**Free Schools**

Delegates asked for examples of effective Free Schools.  Details of a couple of examples are set out below and if anyone wants to see more then please let me know.

**Stone Soup - an alternative provision free school in Nottingham for pupils aged 11-19. The school opened in 2012, and was judged outstanding by Ofsted in May 2014.**

Inspectors commented that: “In the short time that students attend the academy, their achievement improves from poor to outstanding. Students gain qualifications and work-related skills that prepare them well for the future.  Stone Soup Academy offer a variety of nationally recognised qualifications as well as preparing students for key GCSE subjects they take at school, namely English Language and mathematics. The majority of students complete Edexcel awards in Functional Skills and NCFE awards in Music Technology and Creative Crafts.

Many of the staff previously worked outside education in such areas as music, media, clothing design and carpentry. Staff receive teacher training while working in the academy and they are given the opportunity to work towards the Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills award

Highlights from the Ofsted report include:

* In the short time that students attend the academy, their achievement improves from poor to outstanding.
* The quality of teaching and the curriculum is outstanding. Work is closely matched to students’ interests and what they need for life after the academy. The students are therefore strongly motivated to learn.
* An important reason for students’ outstanding achievement is the headteacher’s very effective methods for developing the teaching skills of all staff.
* The driving force for the academy’s success is the shared commitment of the governing body and academy leaders to get young people who have become severely disaffected with schooling back into learning.

**Krishna Avanti Primary School – a mainstream primary free school in Leicester for pupils aged 4-11.The school opened in 2011 and was judged good by Ofsted in May 2013.**

Krishna Avanti Primary School is governed by the Avanti Schools Trust and opened in Leicester in September 2011. The Trust promotes character formation and spiritual development alongside educational high performance. The school curriculum incorporates yoga and meditation into the school day in order to develop its pupil’s character. School leaders also insist on an emphasis on artistic and spiritual development.

The school’s distinctive Hindu ethos is highly effective in promoting pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and makes them “well-balanced and content.”

Ofsted judged the school to be Good at its first inspection in May 2013,

* The school operates a warm and caring environment
* Pupil’s behaviour outstanding.
* The quality of teaching in the Early Years Foundation Stage is outstanding, children are keen to learn and make excellent progress.

Since the school opened it has permitted pupils into the school from Reception. The school will continue to grow organically so that there are children in all year groups from Reception to Y6 in September 2017, therefore KS2 data will be first available from summer 2018.

I hope this is helpful and let me know if there were any further questions or issues for me to address.

Kind regards

Alison

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**Alison Biddulph**

Assistant Director

Academies Regional Delivery Group

