

Dear Colleagues,

### **Academic Year 2022/23**

Welcome back and we hope that you had a relaxing and rejuvenating break over the summer. A big welcome particularly to all our new headteachers; whether you are new to headship, joining us from out of county or moving within Buckinghamshire we wish you the best start to this academic year and look forward to meeting you soon. New headteachers will be receiving information on support available to you, but do contact the School Improvement Team if we can help you in any way in the meantime.

Please find attached a copy of the Side by Side offer for academic year 2022/23 as agreed with the Side by Side Board. The offer provides a comprehensive programme of direct Side by Side Champion support for intervention and prevention schools, but also details support for all schools through the Headline Visits programme, Side by Side conferences, an Early Career Headship programme for new Headteachers, the Buckinghamshire Challenge programme and the meeting and support programme which the School Improvement Team successfully deliver for all Headteachers each academic year.

The School Improvement Team is expanding to ensure that we have the expertise and capacity to deliver against the Side by Side offer, as well as support schools through our growing traded services offer [BESST](#). We are delighted to welcome Lucy Kent as a School Improvement Advisor and Gemma Thorp as a School Engagement Officer to the team. We also hope to have news of a Special School Improvement Advisor to join the team early this Autumn term.

The team have a number of exciting conferences planned throughout the year, both through Side by Side and through the BESST traded service. The first of these is a BESST conference on EAL to support teachers and staff to understand the needs of refugee and asylum seeking pupils, improve knowledge and understanding of strategies used in supporting EAL pupils and gain confidence in using a range of EAL assessment tools. This will be a virtual half day conference on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of October at 9.00am to 12.00pm. We would be delighted for representatives from your school to attend; this conference will be especially useful for school with or expecting Ukrainian pupils this academic year. Further details will be sent out soon.

We are also delighted to announce the return of the Model United Nations event for 2022/23. The Model UN activates students' imagination and creativity, builds confidence and leadership skills and encourages collaboration. Hundreds of thousands of students worldwide take part every year at all educational levels, and many of today's leaders in law, government, business and the arts, including at the UN itself, participated in Model UN as student. More details will be available soon.

Finally, we are delighted that many liaison groups are returning to face to face meetings. Liaison groups are a vital means of working collaboratively, sharing learning and creating a support network and we hope that you will continue to support your local liaison groups through your attendance and participation again this year. The Huddles have also

returned this academic year, so please do drop in whenever the team can be of support. We are sure that you will agree that the pandemic has confirmed what we already knew, as a community of Buckinghamshire schools we really are stronger together.

We hope to meet many of you in person throughout this academic year; at a liaison group, at one of our events or through a visit to your school. We wish you and your school community a fantastic start to the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

**Gareth Drawmer**  
Head of Achievement & Learning  
Traded Delivery Manager

**Yvette Thomas**  
School Improvement and