Dear Colleague

Framework for Excellence School and LA Pilot News

This is an introductory edition of Framework for Excellence School and LA Pilot News. Pilot News will be sent regularly to all schools and local authorities involved in piloting the Framework for Excellence during 2009/10. Regular distribution will take place on a Tuesday and will start from 25 August 2009.

Pilot News will:

- consolidate and co-ordinate all general correspondence to pilot schools and local authorities in one regular communication from the LSC
- include all relevant information for pilots, in particular the key activities and dates in the pilot calendar; and
- provide updates on the progress of each of the User and Development Groups

There may also be direct communication between the chairs of each of the User and Development Groups and the members from pilot schools and local authorities as required.

School and Local Authority Pilot mailbox

A dedicated school and local authority mailbox has been set up to co-ordinate all communications and enquiries between the pilot sites and the LSC. The e-mail address is schoolandlapilot@lsc.gov.uk.

All enquiries will receive an automated acknowledgement and where practicable a response within four working days

Pilot Guide

The Framework for Excellence School and LA Pilot Guide will be published on the Framework for Excellence website by 24 July 2009. The structure and contents have taken account of the recommendations of the Unified Post 16 Provider Performance Assessment Framework (UPPAF) School Pilot Steering group which includes stakeholders from the DCSF, BIS, ADCS, head teachers, ASCL, SFCF, AoC, Ofsted, and LGA.

The Pilot Guide will inform the work of the pilot sites and will be a “live” document. It will be regularly updated to reflect key developments in policy, headline dates or the activity to be carried out by pilot organisations.

Changes in the Guide will be communicated via an e-mail alert to the key contact at each pilot site.

Framework for Excellence website

The Framework website (http://ffe.lsc.gov.uk/) has been updated to include a section for the Schools pilot. This section will include:

1. general information regarding the schools and local authority pilot;
2. the Framework for School and LA Pilot Guide;
3. back copies of the Framework for Excellence School and LA Pilot News; and
4. information about User and Development Groups (including progress reports).

Next steps

The LSC is now planning the next steps for the pilot including setting up User and Development Groups. The high level timeline is:
August 2009 – The LSC will plan and organise each of the User and Development Groups.
25 August 2009 – Distribution of the first regular edition of Pilot News will outline the key dates during the pilot and arrangements for the User & Development Groups.
September 2009 – Final confirmation of membership of each User & Development Groups.
October 2009 – First meetings of the User & Development Group.

This introductory edition of the Pilot News includes, as attachments, a series of annexes, for information, for all schools and local authorities involved in the pilot.

Annex 1 is a list of schools by region and local authority involved in the pilot.
Annex 2 is a list of all local authorities involved in the pilot by region
Annex 3 is the current membership of each of the User & Development Groups. This is based on the first preference indicated by pilot schools and local authorities.

What you need to do

Please check that your preference for the User and Development Group(s) you would like to be involved in is correct. If you wish to make any changes please e-mail the school and local authority mailbox schoolandlapilot@lsc.gov.uk by 21 September 2009.

It is our intention is to publish the name of the pilot participants on the Framework for Excellence website for information. Any publication of the list of pilots would include a clear statement that non-pilots schools or local authorities should not directly contact directly any pilot organisations for information or support but should contact the LSC pilot helpdesk at for further information schoolandlapilot@lsc.gov.uk.

Kind regards

Framework for Excellence School and LA Pilot Team