11th February, 2019

**Bradford Schools Linking Programme**

**Funding of £500 per link available for 2019-2020 and free support with SMSC and creating a broader curriculum**

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to invite you to join the Bradford Schools Linking Programme, aimed at secondary pupils starting from September 2019.  The Schools Linking Programme has been running successfully in Bradford schools for 18 years and currently works with over 90 classes; creating curriculum focussed links between schools across the district throughout the academic year.

As a result of 'Integration Strategy Communities funding’ via Bradford Council we can offer you **£500 per successful link** to help support the cost of running this project in your school. This money can be used towards the cost of linking such as transport and/or as a small bursary for the member of staff responsible for linking. Each school (regardless of number of groups) will also **receive an additional one-off payment** **of £200** which will pay for your annual subscription fee to us at TLN.

Our programme for School Linking has been backed by the Department for Education (DfE).  It is nationally recognised as offering a positive, age-appropriate curriculum contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, British Values and the Prevent Duty.  The programme creates real reasons for communicating, is an enjoyable way for students to meet and interact with others and promotes achievement through literacy rich resources.  As well as this, linking is a great opportunity for schools to develop pupils’ character and expose them to broad, rich and deep curricular experiences.

If you are already involved in a link with another school which is not part of this programme, please get in touch as this funding is available to you as well. If this is the case and you already have a school you connect with and would both like to take part in the linking project together- please write this on the *expression of interest form* attached or ring us.

Linking usually involves pupils meeting two to three times in the year; the first of these meetings normally takes a neutral venue, which we can arrange for you.  However, we are always happy to explore other models of linking with you so that the programme is tailored to meet the needs of your school and pupils. We provide assembly, tutorial and lesson resources to accompany the programme and share the work beyond the group who link.

The ambition is to work together across the district to create opportunities for students to meet others and see to what extent this can contribute to cohesion and integration. Links can be rural- urban, next door neighbours with different populations, within a MAT, between MATs- the criteria is that students meet others they would not otherwise work with. The curriculum content of the link is highly flexible.

Next steps:

1. Complete and return the expression of interest form to us by Friday 8th March.

2.      Upon receipt of your form, we will contact you to discuss your school priorities and a suitable link, your preferred year group, and the pupils you would like to involve in the project.

3.      Your linking teacher(s) attend an after school **CPD for 90 minutes to be held twice each academic year**  to plan an effective school link with their link partner teacher. CPD sessions include training, Ofsted updates, free resources, input on digital linking, handling difficult conversations in the classroom plus planning time for the pairs of linking teachers.

4.      The first meeting of the students is usually a joint visit by both groups to a neutral venue in the district, followed by each group visiting the other school later in the school year. The groups exchange information between link meetings. We will support each link according to their individual needs.

5.      The costs to the school of participating in the Bradford Schools Linking Programme is the subscription of **£200** fee per school to TLN.(This year we have funding towards this fee for you so this £200 will be sent to you then, after CPD1, we will invoice you for this amount.)

6. Each successful group link needs to have a minimum of 14 pupils involved from each school.

**As part of the package for 2019 - 2020, we will provide your school with:**

* Support and resources for linking
* Staff meeting template for SMSC and British values with free training for a member of the school team to deliver a staff meeting.
* Ongoing membership of our Secondary SMSC Leaders Network
* Free tried and tested resources for SMSC and PSHE to support linking and new resources and assemblies for teaching.

To talk the programme through please ring Azam Ali on 07930 562672 or Carly Moran on 07908264965 or complete the enclosed expression of interest form and return it to us by email at azam.ali@thelinking network.org.uk or carly.moran@thelinkingnetwork.org.uk

by **Friday 8th March 2019.** This quick response is needed because we have to distribute the budget we have been allocated by the end of March to linked pairs of schools. At this point by returning this form you are expressing interest in joining the programme. Once you are linked with a school you would sign to agree to engage through the year with your link school, agree for the lead teachers to attend training and planning together. Please note we have a limited budget to distribute and that we cannot guarantee that we will find a link for all schools who express an interest, but we will hold a waiting list and do all we can to find everyone links.

Yours faithfully,

Azam Ali and Carly Moran