



December 2008.

An open letter to the Parliamentary Children, Schools and Families Committee, the Secretary of State for Education, DCSF, Partnerships for Schools and Becta.

The studies of 11 schools, by an independent consultant, (available at <http://www.frogtrade.com/whitepapers>) show that it is possible for schools in very different circumstances to use learning platforms to make transformational change in learning and teaching practices, if two conditions are met.

These studies are representative of what we know is also happening in many other schools using the Frog learning platform, and in a significant number of schools that have succeeded in meeting the two necessary conditions through approaches using other platforms.

The two conditions required are:

- i) Leadership willingness to adopt the approach proved by these schools, of releasing the passion and creativity of their staff and students to devise and implement the changed ways of working that fit their specific needs.
- ii) Implementation of a learning platform that the school and its staff, without external help, can develop in innovative ways to create online systems that properly engage students, parents and the whole staff.

The change capacity that results is enabling these schools to streak ahead of those in which these conditions are not met, creating a disturbing disparity in educational offering across the country.

The teachers, parents and students in these schools show by their comments the scale and importance of the changes happening. **However there is a pressing need for proper evaluation of the human attitude and work practice changes happening**, and the reasons why meeting the two conditions causes these. It will not be possible to convince all schools of what is necessary, to bring the full power of ICT behind fulfilling the aims of the Building Schools for the Future programme, without such an evaluation.

We call upon the government, through its agencies, to work with these leading schools to undertake this evaluation. The experience of these schools can then be replicated in all in their own unique way - before growing parental engagement with schools reveals the disparities across the country for all to see.

The schools in this study are:

Broadgreen International School
Crossley Heath Language College
The Elizabethan School
Greenbank High School
Halifax High School
Honywood Community Science School

Kingsway School
Moorside Community Technology College
Mount St Joseph School
Springhill High School
St Wilfrid's RC College

We invite other schools that have met the two conditions and hence developed internal transformational capacity, and who would like to contribute to such an evaluation, to put themselves forward by emailing evaluation@Frogtrade.com (whatever learning platform they are using).

Gareth Davies,
Managing Director
Frogtrade Ltd.

FrogTrade Ltd
F Mill
Dean Clough
Halifax
HX3 5AX
United Kingdom

t: +44(0)1422 250800

f: +44(0)1422 354232

e: info@frogtrade.com

www.frogtrade.com

