



Rt Hon Ed Balls MP
Secretary of State

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Dear Dame Yasmin Bevan
Professor Sir Tim Brighouse
Mrs Gill Mills
Sir Jim Rose
Mr Maurice Smith CB

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May 2009

Dear Yasmin, Tim, Gill, Jim, Maurice

Thank you for your report. I am very grateful for all the work you have done and for the thorough and comprehensive manner in which you have approached your remit.

I am pleased to accept in full all of your recommendations. In particular, I accept your recommendations that Key Stage 2 tests in English and mathematics should remain as a key accountability measure for all primary schools; and that we should change the way in which science is assessed in primary schools. To ensure continued national accountability for standards, I will ask the scientific community to help develop a national sample test of science for Key Stage 2. A more detailed response (attached as Annex 1) sets out how we will implement all of your recommendations, and I should be most grateful for your continued support in this important work.

I agree that we should ensure the accountability system fully recognises and rewards the wider outcomes of schools, and I welcome your recommendation that we should develop the

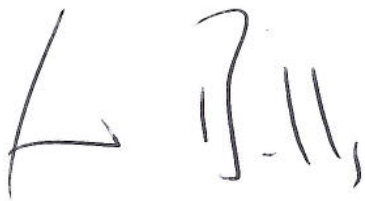


department for
children, schools and families

School Report Card as soon as possible. The document attached as Annex 2 sets out in more detail our thinking about the development of the School Report Card, and in particular the case for the inclusion of a single overall grade on each school's performance. We will be consulting further on this issue in advance of our forthcoming schools white paper.

Once again thank you for all your hard work, and for the real contribution you have made to ensure our assessment system is of the greatest benefit to children, parents and the public.

Yours sincerely

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ED BALLS MP