

## **Select Committee - Grammar Schools and Social Mobility**

**22 February 2016**

### **Biography**

#### **Denis Ramplin – Director of Marketing & Communications, The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham**

Having been involved with the Marketing and Communications industry for 25+ years Denis has now been working for The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham for the last three years. The organisation is a charity which supports 8 schools across the City, 2 independent schools, 5 grammar schools and a sponsored academy.

The “Opening Doors” campaign has now been running for a couple of years, was intended to create a platform for dialogue with primary schools to create “partnerships” which will, in turn, create a dialogue leading to opportunities for teachers, pupils and parents across the City. All of their actions are intended to create a “call to action” which will ultimately benefit children, teachers and parents with the opportunities, messages and training they can offer.

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**Hearing 7: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016**

### **Witness Guide for Members**

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

### **Themes and Questions**

**Denis Ramplin – Director of Marketing & Communications, The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham**

- Please introduce yourself and provide an outline of the roles and responsibilities of your post.
- The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham have taken forward the 'Opening Doors' project to widen access to grammar schools. Please could you provide a brief overview of the project, its purpose, what changes have been made and what impact you have seen?
- There is a concern that the cost of education is a barrier to FSM children attending grammar schools. The King Edward VI "promise" includes assisting with affordability issues. Please could you explain what the promise is, what it involves, and what impact it has had?
- To what extent do King Edward VI schools intake reflect the local community or is there a particularly wide catchment area?
- Sutton Trust research has reported that parents from disadvantaged backgrounds often associate their schools with tradition, middle class values and elitism, creating a social rather than an educational barrier to make them reluctant to send their children to the local grammar. Do you think this is true and if so, what actions, for example school open days and other outreach activities have you taken to change this? What impact have these had?
- What relationship does The Schools of King Edward VI have with local primary schools and how does this support FSM children to access grammar school places?
- How can primary schools make a positive change in the opportunities for disadvantaged children to secure appropriate grammar school places?
- To what extent have you found private tuition taking place for the 11+ test? What actions have you taken to ensure this does not prevent disadvantaged children from accessing grammar schools?
- Do attainment levels differ between FSM and non FSM children once in a King Edward VI grammar school?
- Are there any other issues that you would like to raise with the Committee?

