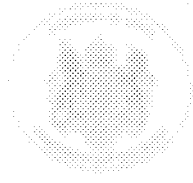


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His Majesty King Charles the First
Secretary of State

Foreign Office, One Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2BY
www.gov.uk

Joel Klein
Chancellor
New York Department of Education
Tweed Courthouse
85 Chambers Street
New York
NY 10007
United States of America

5 November 2010

Dear Mr Klein,

I am writing to invite you to be a guest speaker at a conference on school reform that I am hosting on behalf of the United Kingdom Government on 23 January 2011.

As you may know our Government have recently passed legislation that allows parent groups, teachers and charities to set up independent state-funded schools (known as Free Schools).

Free Schools are a relatively new concept in England, but are modelled on successful reforms in other countries. I have been particularly impressed by the Charter Schools movement in the US and I discussed this at length with Secretary Duncan on his visit to England last week. We agreed that the UK education system faces similar challenges to those seen in the US in recent years with too many children - especially from poorer backgrounds - not getting the access to the good education that they deserve.

I have followed closely the success of your work in New York and I believe there is much that we can learn from your experience of supporting and developing

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successful Charter Schools. I am fascinated by the Charter Schools model and how it is increasing levels of innovation and choice into the US schools system. This is exactly the model that our free schools are looking to build on.

I would therefore be delighted if you could join us at this event and in return I hope that we can share with you the passion and motivation that there is in this country to improve the life chances for all young people.

We will be inviting to this event teachers, parents, charities and other organisations that have expressed an interest in starting new schools. I want the conference to give them the information and inspiration they need to make their own Free Schools a reality.

I have also invited other experts from the US, including Michelle Rhee and Jay Byeman, to join us for this event and I have therefore asked my officials to organise a series of policy discussions and visits at this time, to enable you all to see our education system in action. My officials will contact your office to follow-up on this later.



MICHAEL GOVE