

Mr. A. Hamed  
Former Chair of Governors (2007-2009)  
Moseley School  
Birmingham. B13 9

To, [dcsf.ministers@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:dcsf.ministers@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk)

19<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Dear Rt. Hon. Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families

**Re: Moseley School**

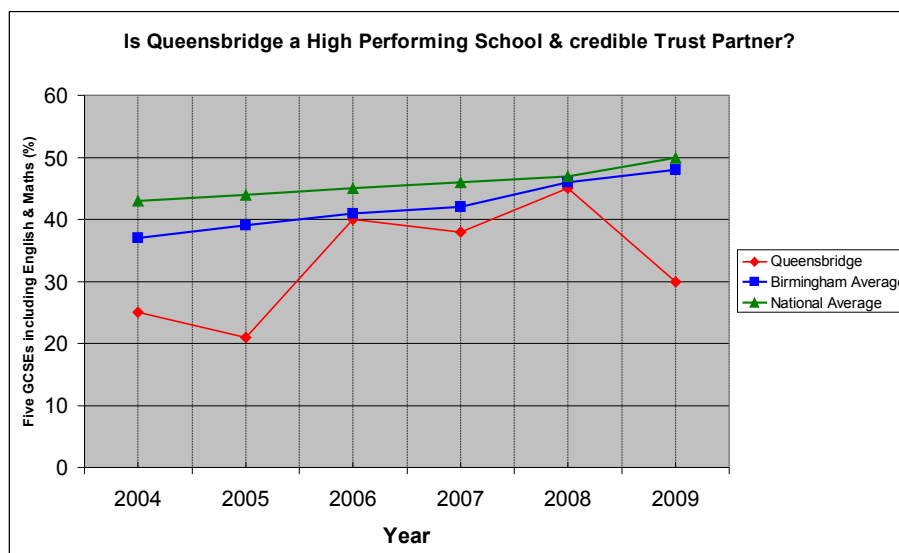
It is with dismay that I am compelled to write this letter. I was informed by way of a letter from Mr. Tony Howell dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010, that Birmingham City Council's application for an Interim Executive Board at Moseley School had been approved.

For two decades, Moseley School was seriously under-performing and those in positions of power to intervene did nothing to address the root cause of historical low attainment. Instead, many lamentable excuses were cited to explain away low attainment.

The school hit rock bottom in 2006 when a mere 15% of pupils passed five GCSEs A\*-C including English and Maths. Nobody intervened to address the root cause of low attainment. Thereafter, parents and members of the community including former pupils – undertook leadership positions on the Governing Body. The Governing Body became representative of the community served by the school. It had five doctors and four former pupils. Every single member of the Governing Body was university educated; with some working for prestigious UK and multi-national organisations.

The Governing Body under new and representative leadership instigated long overdue change at the School. I initiated contact with the Local Authority to express serious concerns about school performance. A change in senior leadership followed thereafter and in 2009, GCSE results improved to their highest ever level in decades with 33% of pupils passing five GCSEs A\*-C including English and Maths. In 2010, GCSE results are predicted to be 40%.

In February 2010, you signed an application for an Interim Executive Board at Moseley School, paving the way for Moseley School to become a National Challenge Trust with Queensbridge School as a partner. In 2009, GCSE results for Queensbridge fell to 30%. I draw your attention to Queensbridge's GCSE pass rate over the last six years when compared to Birmingham's average and the national average. There are at least thirty other secondary schools in Birmingham that have performed better than Queensbridge School over the last six years.



May I presume to ask the Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families two questions?

a) Did you personally read Birmingham City Council's application for an Interim Executive Board at Moseley School as well as the Chair of Governor's response to the application?

b) If so, how do you justify a structural solution for Moseley School – a National Challenge School that achieved 33% in 2009 – with Queensbridge School, a supposedly *high performing* school whose 2009 GCSE results fell to 30% in 2009 and which has never exceeded the Birmingham average nor the national average over the last six years for five GCSEs A\*-C including English and Maths?

I draw your attention to an article that appeared in the ***Local Government Chronicle*** by Ms. Karen Day on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in which you are quoted to have said that in the creation of National Challenge Federations or Trust Schools ***the best lead the worst***. Moseley School is certainly not the worst and Queensbridge School is certainly not the best. For further information, please see <http://www.lgcplus.com/news/no-more-excuses/1769606.article>

In the best interests of the stakeholders of Moseley School and the communities that it serves, I look forward to receiving your response soon.

Yours sincerely

A. Hamed  
Former Chair of Governors (2007-2009)  
Moseley School  
Birmingham. B13 9