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Our Ref : ICT/ICTKS3Tst/ajm

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FOR ATTENTION OF THE HEADTEACHER

RE: ICT TEST AT KEY STAGE 3

You will be aware that, following advice from the QCA, Ministers have decided not to make the ICT test statutory in 2008. This announcement was made by Jim Knight on 10th January 2007 at the BETT show. Instead, the focus is for the test to be used more flexibly, as a formative rather than summative assessment tool.

We would, nevertheless, like to encourage all schools to continue as planned with participation in this year's pilot. Considerable time and energy has already been invested in preparations for April/May 2007 and we suggest that using the ICT test will benefit young people.

The test has been a significant catalyst for improvements both in the teaching and provision for ICT. Greater rigour has been applied to planning, levelling, assessment and student tracking. The test also provides formative feedback supporting student learning.

Reports on the media have generated heated debate, within a variety of forums. The Secondary National Strategy is preparing further guidance and we will share this with you when we receive it. Should you require any further clarification, please contact us on (01603) 433276.