

15 November 2004

SHA COMMENTS ON DfES INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY

The Secondary Heads Association welcomes today's announcement by the Secretary of State of a comprehensive international strategy for education.

SHA President, Tim Andrew, head of Chesham High School, Buckinghamshire, which has links with China, France, Italy, Germany, Ghana and Denmark, said:

Secondary schools are preparing young people for a world in which job opportunities are increasingly global and the need to understand other cultures is daily more evident. I strongly support the Government's promotion of international links and I have no doubt that schools will want to take advantage of the many opportunities now open to them.

SHA General Secretary, Dr John Dunford, said:

The cloud on this horizon is the dramatic fall in the number of 14-15 year olds studying a modern foreign language. The Government should not have made modern languages voluntary for all young people in this age group. Increasing language learning in primary schools is not a substitute.