

Noticeboard

Children and Young Peoples Services

In this week's edition

This electronic communications bulletin is available on the North Somerset Website at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/noticeboard

Vacancy Bulletins

The [Schools Vacancies Bulletin](#) for this week will be available on the website from Wednesday 16 November 2011.

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Update from the Learning Exchange



Headteachers' and Chairs of Governors' Briefing

Date: 24 November 2011
Time: 2pm – 4pm (registration and refreshments at 1.30pm)
Venue: Clevedon Hall, Victoria Road, Clevedon, BS21 7RQ

Ofsted have published the draft new inspection framework, which is due to come into force from January 2012. Daniel Towl (HMI) will be delivering a briefing on the new Ofsted framework in North Somerset. There will also be updates from colleagues on what the new framework means for governing bodies and their involvement in school self evaluation – [agenda](#).

Please book your place on [CPD Online](#). For further information, contact [Sue Ivermee](#), Principal Adviser.

Family Learning Courses

Find out more about Family Learning courses, which help boost parental engagement in school life...

Despite a diminished budget for running Family learning courses, we are looking to run a few more courses in North Somerset schools before Christmas or starting in January, so I am using this opportunity to contact schools we have not yet engaged with and suggest a few possibilities!

Our courses are usually 12-20 hours and run in 2 hour sessions so a school would need to identify a room that we could use for several weeks on a given day/time. They can run at a time to suit the school/parents learners, and while we usually try to find a way for the children to join us for the last part of each session, we can run an adult only group if desired.

We can offer:

- Family Numeracy
- Family Literacy (storysacks, etc)
- Family IT
- Fit Families
- Family SEAL (or other parenting skills theme)
- Family art and craft
- Family sign language (BSL)

The courses are free to the school and parents/carers, but we do request a **voluntary** contribution towards costs from the adult learners if possible. We would need a minimum of 8-10 families enrolled before we could run any course, so I would be more than happy to come along to talk to parents if you are having any parents meetings in the near future. We are looking mainly to engage parents with few formal qualifications and can signpost them to various progression courses to meet their individual needs.

For further information contact [Anne Bunn](#), Family Learning Development Worker (01934 426389 or 07795 092607).

Raising Attainment in English and Maths at KS4

The Learning Exchange has commissioned CPD from our most common examination boards to support raising attainment in English and Maths at KS4:

AQA GCSE Mathematics – Mathematics for Real Life Course Outline

- Questioning skills to develop students' thinking skills
- Kinaesthetic activities that embed students' thinking skills and functional understanding
- Update from the November 2010 exams with effective teaching strategies that target common weaknesses
- Targeting students on the D-C borderline.

Date: Monday 28 November
Time: 14.00 - 17.00
Venue: Priory Community School - an Academy Trust
Cost: £70 one delegate; £100 two delegates for Learning Exchange members
Booking: [CPD Online](#)

WJEC English - strategies for raising attainment at GCSE Course outline

- Preparing students for modular exams
- Controlled assignments - focusing on grade boundaries at D-C and B-A - A*

Date: Thursday 1 December
Time: 14.00 - 17.00
Venue: Nailsea School
Cost: £70 one delegate; £100 two delegates for Learning Exchange members
Booking: [CPD Online](#)

For further information, contact [Marie Horton](#), LE Adviser (14-19 Partnerships).

Assessment update: receiving STA assessment updates

Go to: [Communication to schools from the Standards & Testing Agency](#)

Parent View

Ofsted have published some [FAQ](#) relating to the recently launched Parent View website.

Recent TES article by David Gale, Secondary Maths AST

Congratulations to David Gale our Maths AST who has had his second [article](#) published in the TES recently.

Consultations

- Revised Admissions Arrangements Consultation which is now open until 10 November
- Revised Premises regulations consultation which is now open until 26 January

- Call for Evidence for the Independent Review of Early Education and Childcare Qualifications which is now open until 23 December
- Proposed amendment to School Governance open until 18 November
- Removing the statutory duty to deliver work related learning in KS4 open until 4 January 2012
- 16-19 Funding Formula open until 4 January 2012
- 16-19 Study Programmes open until 4 January 2012

Please follow the link for more information: <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/>.

[Paul Jacobs](#), Assistant Director, Learning & Achievement

New School Admissions Code

As you will know, there has recently been a consultation by the DfE on the proposed new [School Admissions and Appeals Codes](#).

The Codes (and draft regulations) will be laid before Parliament in December, in order to come into force in February 2012, and thereby affect the allocation of places for children starting school in September 2013.

[Bill McEntee](#), Senior Admissions Adviser

Revised Strike Action Guidance

Members of a number of support staff and teaching Trade Unions are balloting or have balloted for 'discontinuous' national strike action in response to the proposed changes to public sector pension arrangements. Assuming the strike action goes ahead, we have been informed that the first day of the proposed discontinuous action will take place on Wednesday 30 November 2011.

The following documents are on the [November 2011](#) web page for your information:

- Guidance about the action that schools need to take in relation to the proposed strike;
- Some frequently asked questions about industrial action;
- New DfE Guidance 'Advice for handling industrial action in schools'
- The Weekly Staff Absence Return Form for notifying Payroll of staff who have taken strike action.

The Guidance and FAQs have been revised and augmented since they were issued in connection with the strike of 30 June 2011.

If you have any queries having read the guidance or FAQs, please contact me on 01275 884742.

[Piers Hartridge](#), Schools Human Resources

Additional Grant for Schools 2011-12

The DfE have confirmed the funding allocated to schools for the Release of PE Teachers, Additional Grant for Schools 2011-12 covers the period September 2011 - August 2012. No changes will be made to the allocation of £7,600 as the conditions of the grant state that all the funding must be passed to schools in this financial year. Any unspent grant in the 2011-12 financial year up to the value of £3,167 (5/12ths) can be scheduled as income in advance on ledger code X112, at the end of the financial year.

[Clare Pearce](#), Schools Funding Finance Officer
[John Pinkett](#), Schools Finance Support Manager

EduBase

EduBase is the Department's register of educational establishments across England and Wales. The data held on EduBase feeds into the Department's new website tool "Compare a School", as well as feeding and updating Directgov and numerous other external websites.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind schools that they can access the EduBase system to help maintain or update your own school's record. The EduBase public portal can be accessed via the following link www.education.gov.uk/edubase

There is also an EduBase helpdesk that supports the management of the database. It can be contacted on telephone number 0870 120 25 27 or email helpdesk@edubase.education.gov.uk

How to edit/amend a record

To make a change to an establishment record, login to EduBase using this link www.education.gov.uk/edubase

- Enter your unique username and password (if you do not have a username and password, please contact the EduBase helpdesk using the contact details above).
- From the left hand side menu you will see "My Establishment Record". Clicking on this will show you the data that is held for your Establishment
- Choose the "Edit Record Link" which will show you the fields which can be edited. Note the summary page is made up of values from other tabs so cannot be edited directly.
- Once you have made your changes click "Apply" and "Save" on the confirmation page.

If the changes are not reflected immediately on the record, this will mean the changes have been sent to the relevant team at the Department for Education to be approved. Do not be alarmed about this, the changes will be approved or rejected in due course.

The quality of the data on EduBase is of utmost importance to the Department. We rely on the network of schools, Local Authorities and key stakeholders to regularly review, maintain and update school records.

[Sally Milton](#), Data Systems Manager

Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January 2012

I work for Equality South West which is a regional organisation promoting equality, diversity and human rights www.equalitysouthwest.org.uk. We have been asked to be the Regional Champion for the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and as such I am here to help you (as a free resource!), if you are interested in organising an activity for your school or college this year.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2012 is “Speak Up, Speak Out” – which is asking us to share the lessons of the past and present and to use our voices to create a safer and better future. The day hopes to empower people to challenge discriminatory behaviour when they see and hear about it. To visit the website and find out more, please see <http://hmd.org.uk/>.

Let me know if I can help in any way.

[Jinny Uppington](#), Equality Development Officer, Equality South West

Domestic Abuse Drop-in

Date: 28 November
Time: 9.00 – 4.30
Venue: Nailsea Youth House

For practitioners who want to improve their knowledge of and response to domestic abuse. Please see the flyer on the [November 2011](#) web page for full details.

[Louise Branch](#), Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator

NQT Training Programme

Date: 11 January 2012
Venue: Winter Gardens

I would like to highlight the opportunity for NQTs to attend a training day for **Working with Pupils whose Behaviour is Challenging**. This is a repeat session of the training held in October 2011.

For further details and to view other NQT training events, please visit [CPD Online](#).

[Vicky Fletcher](#), Best Practice Administrator