

SCHOOLS NorthEast weekly update

The future of our region is in school

This week...

Is a veritable 'week of weeks', with Anti-Bullying Week, Inter Faith Week and Global Entrepreneurship Week all taking place right now, offering fantastic opportunities for themes and events you could use in your school.

Anti-Bullying Week 2009 is shining a light on bullying and sending out a clear and positive message that it is neither acceptable nor inevitable in our schools and communities.

The results of a long term DCSF study released last week shows a staggering 47% of 14-year-olds have experienced some sort of bullying. Along with name-calling, the most common form of bullying is now cyberbullying, which is the focus of this year's Anti-Bullying Week.

Cyberbullying refers to the use of ICT, particularly mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately upset somebody else. Because cyberbullying is indirect and largely perceived as anonymous, it is often not taken as seriously as other forms of bullying, but with the ever increasing use of social networking in young people there has never been more need to highlight the distress it can cause.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance have a wealth of anti-bullying information and resources available on their website, including advice for schools, advice for parents and advice for young people themselves, plus information on what happens beyond this week. To access the resources and for more information visit www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk.

Inter Faith Week 2009 is designed to promote good inter faith relations, highlight the contribution of faiths to building community and increase the understanding between faiths and wider society.

The Inter Faith Week website has a specific area dedicated to Inter Faith ideas for schools, featuring resources designed especially for this week by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education and National Association of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, supported by the DCSF. You can access the resources and more information at www.interfaithweek.org/schools.htm.

Global Entrepreneurship Week 2009 is 'a worldwide movement of entrepreneurial people, with millions unleashing their enterprising talents and turning their ideas into reality'.

The Entrepreneurship Week website offers ideas for events and highlights existing events taking place throughout the week, as well as a dedicated section to the Make Your mark challenge, the UK's biggest one-day enterprise event which will see schools from all over the country compete to come up with a 'cool' creation inspired by their local areas.

Visit www.gew.org.uk, or www.enterpriseuk.org for more information and inspiration.

If your school is staging any events on these or any other themes we'd love to know about them. Drop us a line at think@schoolsnortheast.com and we'll feature the best ones next week.

News and events

What does Community Cohesion mean to schools?

A practitioner-led discussion will be held at Hotspur Primary School in Newcastle on 17 November to consider the challenge of transforming the important theoretical and policy concept of Community Cohesion into practical action.

As you will be aware, since 2008 Ofsted has had a legal responsibility to report on how English schools are meeting their duty to promote Community Cohesion, but the term remains deceptively complex. This event will consider what the phrase really means, and what its practical implications are for schools.

The speakers will be Adrian Gray (HMI, Divisional Manager, Frameworks, Policy and Guidance for Ofsted with responsibility for community cohesion), Miles Wallis-Clarke (Head Teacher, Hotspur Primary School), Leanne Pearson, Class teacher, Hotspur Primary School) and Debora O'Hara (parent, Hotspur Primary School)

The event will run from 5:00pm until 7:30pm with refreshments served afterwards. There will also be an opportunity to look around the school between 4:00pm and 5:00pm. To book a place, please contact Charlotte Branch at hs.hcsevents@northumbria.ac.uk.

The Class Awards 2010

The CoLaS awards have been renamed as The Class Awards for 2010, and they are looking for dancers, singers, bands, soloists, comedians, acrobats... and just about any other type of performers looking for the chance to prove they are the best in the North East!

If your pupils think they have what it takes, and would like the chance to perform in front of 1,400 people during the Class Awards ceremony at the Sage in Gateshead on 23 April 2010, then they need to submit an audition tape at www.theclawards.co.uk/audition before 18 December 2009.

There is also an opportunity to nominate an individual or organisation you believe to be at the cutting edge of skills development and learning for an award, or perhaps even enter yourself! Simply visit www.theclawards.co.uk for all the information you'll need.

Enterprise UK teacher training events

As part of Global Entrepreneurship Week, RTC North is delivering enterprise activities to all secondary schools in the Newcastle area. Specific 'Train the Teacher' workshops can be delivered to equip teachers with the skills and resources needed to sustain enterprise activity in schools.

The sessions will be running until the end of November, and are funded entirely by Newcastle city Council and the European Regional Development fund. For more information contact Barrie Mullen at barrie.mullen@rtcnorth.co.uk or telephone (0191) 516 4400.

Show Racism the Red Card

Show Racism the Red Card are holding a conference at Middlesbrough Football Club on 22 November aimed at empowering teachers to tackle racism and promote race equality in the classroom.

The event is open to anybody working in the field of education, and will run from 10am – 4pm. Click [here](#) for more information or to book your place.

The organisation is also now taking entries for their 2010 schools competition. This annual competition sees pupils creating anti-racist artwork, writing, films and music.

Last year 632 schools took part with an estimated 60,000 pupils producing anti-racist themed work, and a prize-giving ceremony at Villa Park in Birmingham. Being a world cup year, SRTRC are hoping

to make next year's competition even bigger and better. For more information on the competition or to register your school, click [here](#).

Nissan Schools Engineering Discovery Event

Places are still available for the Nissan Schools Engineering Discovery Event being held from 18 to 22 January 2010.

This year's event is themed around electric vehicles and will be hosted by two of Nissan's own young male and female engineers. The visit will also include a tour of the final assembly production line to see how a car is built.

This event was created with ONE North East to encourage pupils to choose engineering as a potential career. The North East has a shortage of new engineering talent, and Nissan hopes to inspire future engineers of both sexes to remain in the area and put their talents to use in the many local companies who employ engineers.

There are places for 2,500 pupils, with the event being predominantly aimed at the 11-13 year old age group - although older pupils would also be welcome. The event is free and pupils will receive a gift to take home.

There are two 2 hour sessions each day. Morning sessions begin for registration at 9.30am with a 10am start, and the event will finish around lunchtime. Morning sessions begin for registration at 9.30am with a 10am start, and the event will finish at around 3:00pm.

If you would like to take part in this event, please contact Dawn Waugh at dawn.waugh@nissan-nmuk.co.uk or (0191) 415 2764, indicating which day you would prefer, whether a morning or afternoon session would be better for your group, how many pupils you would like to bring and how many teachers will be accompanying them.

News round-up

Regional news

- [School's thanks for support](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Stockton school plans given the go-ahead](#) (Evening Gazette)
- [Call for net safety classes after 'Facebook death'](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [£3m hope for Billingham school](#) (Evening Gazette)
- [Parents back school hearing](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Youngsters play their part in city's tributes](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Schools send a smile across the world](#) (Hexham Courant)
- [Small North Tyne school hosts ambitious fayre](#) (Hexham Courant)
- [School tribute to Steven](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Academy scoops national award](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Boro Star David Wheater opens Errington Primary sports facility](#) (Evening Gazette)
- [Memorial service for tragic Steven Atkinson](#) (Journal)
- [Teesside pupils scoop top prizes in contest](#) (Evening Gazette)
- [To sleep, perchance to get better grades](#) (Independent)

Politics – Conservatives

- [Tories ask teachers to go it alone with 'free schools' of their own](#) (TES)
- [RSA chief leads fight-back for 'progressive' values in face of Tory](#) (TES)

Politics – Labour

- [Teachers revolt over 'check-ups'](#) (BBC News)
- [Mandelson announces 35,000 new apprenticeships](#) (Guardian)
- [Labour's plan for 'John Lewis' public services](#) (Guardian)
- [Schools fear Ed Balls' guarantees will trigger litigation](#) (BBC News)
- [Behaviour report for every child in school shake-up](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Ed Balls: What I expect from schools](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Failing schools targeted](#) (Daily Telegraph)

Sats results

- [72,000 pupils in grades bungle](#) (Independent)
- [One in eight pupils 'wrong level'](#) (BBC News)
- [Sats results 'wrong for thousands of pupils'](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Fewer Sats appeals granted – it's official](#) (TES)

Bullying

- [47% of 14-year-olds 'are bullied'](#) (BBC News)
- [Half of 14-year-olds have been bullied](#) (Independent)
- [Cyberbullying is as common as name-calling, study shows](#) (Guardian)
- [Cyberbullies hit primary schools](#) (BBC News)

Advice on teaching girls (Jill Berry comments)

- [Girls 'must be taught risks of juggling career and motherhood'](#) (Times)
- [Anything that boys can do, women can do better](#) (Times)
- [Having it all 'not realistic'](#) (BBC News)

Computerised A-level marking

- [Great writers 'fail' online test](#) (BBC News)
- [A-level computerised exam markers give Churchill a fail](#) (Times)
- [Fail him on the beaches](#) (Independent)
- [Churchill's speeches fail exam](#) (Daily Telegraph)

Diplomas

- [Diplomas 'cost £10,000 per student'](#) (Daily Telegraph)

Other exam and testing news

- [Confidence in exam systems 'less'](#) (BBC News)
- [Scrap tests – judge schools on number of university graduates, says education guru](#) (Guardian)
- [Schools being 'turned into exam factories'](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Exam board chief warns of lack of public trust in system](#) (Independent)
- [Take a look at yourself! Get an A for anthropology](#) (Independent)
- [11-plus replacement tests taken](#) (BBC News)
- [Results 'distortion'](#) (TES)

School governors

- [School governors are becoming powerless 'pawns'](#) (Guardian)
- [School governors becoming 'passive pawns'](#) (Daily Telegraph)

Help for school leavers

- [£32m for school leavers](#) (BBC News)
- [16-17 jobless fall](#) (TES)

Independent school news

- [Not-for-profit private school chain is a class apart](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Struggling independent schools fear Tory plans for state-funded academies](#) (Times)
- [Recession forcing private schools to offer incentives to keep pupils](#) (Guardian)
- [Pay cut hits private school teachers](#) (Independent)
- [Independent schools: a worthwhile investment](#) (Daily Telegraph)

School places and class sizes

- [Hyslop blames class size failures on councils](#) (Times)
- [Supersize primaries rise by half under Labour](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [London needs 50,000 more school places](#) (Guardian)
- [Quest for school places has gone monkey nuts](#) (TES)
- [More children in larger schools](#) (BBC News)

Academy sponsorship

- [Poorly performing sponsors could be allowed to carry on running academies](#) (TES)

Pupil bereavement support

- [Bereaved children lack school help](#) (BBC News)
- [Breaking it gently](#) (TES)

Other pupil news

- [Pupils can be searched for drugs and alcohol](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Sick children 'copied TV storyline'](#) (BBC News)
- [Business studies can make entrepreneurs of deprived children](#) (TES)
- [Children taught not to stamp on insects and to respect worms](#) (Daily Telegraph)

Teacher news

- [Teachers strike over school plans](#) (BBC News)
- [Headteacher suspends pupils after being 'cyberbullied' by Facebook group attacking her dress sense](#) (Daily Mail)
- [Faith schools attacked over staff](#) (BBC News)
- [Is this the unluckiest teacher in Britain?](#) (TES)
- [Fury grows as NUT walkout stall plans for Institute of Education](#) (TES)

Discipline

- [Taught a lesson in why discipline is out of our hands](#) (TES)

TES Myths – rising standards

- [Myth: 'The apparent rise in standards is just exams getting easier'](#) (TES)

Other education news

- [Opening the school debate](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Teachers condemned for staging mock crime scene](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [History 'being cut from timetables'](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Spanish region takes hands-on approach to sex education](#) (Guardian)
- [Authors help pilot international children's reading groups](#) (Guardian)
- [Education officials spent £10m on first-class fares](#) (Independent)
- [How Estuary English won the world over](#) (TES)
- [New progressivism is a cause to fight for](#) (TES)
- [Sector questions skills strategy pledge](#) (TES)
- [Segregation reigns in wake of war](#) (TES)
- [Teens come of age on big screen](#) (TES)
- [Kids with kids: how teen mums are a relic of the 1960s](#) (TES)

Head to Head

This week we spoke to John Redman, Head Teacher of Cockton Hill Infant School in Bishop Auckland. He told us all about the work his school carried out as part of Global Citizenship Week.

This week was Global Citizenship Week. We had a visiting teacher from Kostroma in Russia, which is twinned with Durham. Oksana enjoyed meeting our children and told them Russian stories. We also had a visit from three Irish teachers from Gory in County Wexford, and we have set up a Skype link so we can talk with each other. Our children set up citizenship displays for their parents and this work will continue through Anti-Bullying Week. We also had an art gallery of children's framed pictures for sale, so it was a busy and good week.

The two best things that happened at school last week were meeting our new friend from Russia and our three new friends from Ireland.

The biggest disappointment at school last week was the new disabled ramp, which was due to be completed during the last summer holidays but is still not finished!!

The funniest thing that happened at school last week was Millie looking for "the cup o' tea room"! (our staff room - great name!)

One thing that would have made my job easier last week was to have 7 days instead of 5 and more hours in each day.

Top of my to-do list for this week is to catch up on the paper work that I keep putting to one side.

My hero of last week was Emma - she always has a smile and is a great role model for others.

My villain of last week was County Hall for refusing more support for a pupil in a wheel chair.

My question for next week's head is how can we get administrators, LAs and Governments that preach early intervention to actually "DO" early intervention?

What do you do to encourage Enterprise skills? Our best exercise was to set up class shops for a specific charity. Our children had to choose their product, set up the shop, set the prices, control quality and ensure there was enough of the product, and sell these to other children in school. Much of what was sold they brought in from home and it was very successful. In five afternoons we raised just under £300 for charity.

My final thought for the week is what a great job I have - it is never the same from one week to the next, the children always give me a buzz and it is very satisfying.

Star pupil... *award winning North East schools*

Congratulations to Academy 360, Galley Hill School and Captain Cook Primary School who have all been awarded prizes this week.

Academy 360 was named as best academy in the Partnerships for Schools Excellence in Building Schools for the Future awards. Organisers said the award reflected a strong educational vision, excellence in design, community facilities and stakeholder engagement.

Galley Hill School in Guisborough and Captain Cook Primary School in Marton have been recognised by the Esh Charitable Trust for their transformation of outdoor spaces. The two schools were among 20 who had won initial 'first seed' funding of £1000 to develop gardening and horticultural projects on their school grounds. The Trust then judged the work they carried out with the money, and have awarded both schools further funding for finishing second and third respectively.

Could try harder... *Sats grades*

This week has seen yet more controversy surrounding Sats marking, with the news that up to one in six pupils may have been awarded the wrong grade according to a report published by Ofqual. The report also revealed that over the past five years between 12% and 17% of pupils were awarded the wrong grades in the science test. The report was published just a week after it emerged that teachers and Heads are planning to boycott the tests next May, heaping yet further pressure on examiners.

Opportunities and Resources

LSN Learning 14-19 debate

LSN Learning are holding an event on 8 December 2009 at Newcastle Civic Centre to share your views on the 14-19 changes with colleagues throughout the sector including local authorities, colleges and schools. The debates will focus on the following topics:

- Successfully implementing the 16-19 funding transfer;
- The importance of the learner voice;
- Meeting the expectations and needs of our 14-19 year olds.

Places are free but need to be booked in advance. To book a place visit www.lsnlearning.org.uk/bigdebates.

Using Talk for Writing in primary teaching

The DCSF have produced a new guidance, helping teachers to improve children's' writing by developing their ability to 'read as writers'. The material focuses on the thinking and creative processes involved in planning ideas and incorporating techniques learned from other writers into their own work.

It also allows children to rehearse the structure and sequence of a piece of writing and guides how the text should sound – its style and voice.

To access Talk for Writing visit www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/nationalstrategies/ad15/tfw.

TES Schools Awards 2010

The annual TES Schools Awards (TESSAs) celebrate and reward the professionalism and flair of those teams making an outstanding contribution to primary and secondary schools in both the maintained and independent sectors across the UK.

The TESSEs encompass innovation and excellence in teaching, leadership, support and community involvement. Nominations are open until 5 February 2010 and the winners will be announced at a gala ceremony on 17 June 2010.

For more details and the full list of award categories visit the awards website at www.tes.co.uk/awards.

Free Christingle resources

Christingle, the candlelit service, is a fun and inspiring way to actively engage children with key messages of the Christian faith.

The Children's Society have created a Create-a-Christingle pack, which features stories, discussion ideas and learning activities covering different strands of the RE curriculum.

For more information visit www.christingle.org or call 0845 600 8585.

Grants and funding opportunities

Funding for music making activities

Youth Music, the UK's largest children's music charity has announced its grant making programme is open for applications. Through its "Open Programme", grants of between £5,000 and £30,000 are available to support projects that provide music-making activities for children and young people in support of Youth Music's goals. Youth Music will fund any non profit-making organisation more than one year old, that is committed to music-making activities for children and young people up to 18 (or up to 25 if they have special educational needs, disabilities or are in detention). Youth Music aims to support music making activities principally in out of school hours such as during weekends, holidays as well as in breakfast and after schools clubs. Youth Music understands that programmes may need to begin in school hours especially if the proposal involves encouraging first time participation in music. To help with this, Youth Music will consider applications for programmes where up to 25% of the time is spent in school hours. The proposed programme should aim to encourage children and young people to eventually make music outside of school hours. For full information and to apply click [here](#).

Global school partnerships starter grants

Thousands more children in the UK and overseas could get involved in the government's Global School Partnership Programme thanks to new starter grants that has been launched by the Government. The new funding provides 1,000 £250 starter grants over the next three years for teachers to develop global education within the curriculum and establish school partnerships with developing countries. They are funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and can be used towards lesson cover and travel costs for teachers to attend information workshops and also in-school training to build development education expertise. DFID aims to boost the number of schools supported from nearly 2,000 currently to 5,000 by March 2012. Schools will be targeted in under-represented areas of UK, including the East Midlands and East of England, and under-represented sectors including schools with a special educational needs focus. The programme also offers support and grants of up to £26,400 per partnership over four years to fund visits between schools and develop joint curriculum projects focused on global development issues. Grants can be used towards costs including travel and accommodation on both sides of the partnership,

communications costs, resources for activities and events, and supply cover. For more information and to apply click [here](#).

Innovative Geography teaching grants

The Royal Geographical Society is a learned society with the aim of advancing geographical science and supporting its practitioners. One of the Society's key aims is to enhance the teaching and learning of geography in schools. The Society works on behalf of schools providing activities, training, advice and resources. Their main focus is on 12 to 19-year-olds in schools and colleges. Teachers that have an innovative idea for promoting the teaching of Geography in stimulating way are able to apply for an Innovative Geography Teaching grant from the Royal Society. The grant is open to all geography teachers working in secondary schools and aims to enhance pupils' geography education in a stimulating way. The Society provides five grants of £800 each year. The next application deadline is the 15 October 2010. For more information and to apply click [here](#).

And finally...

According to a report published last week, the nation's favourite school dinner is the classic combination of a traditional roast followed by sponge pudding with custard. The Guardian decided to look at what else made up the list, including baked salmon and chicken wraps, and points out just how much school meals have improved since the days of cherryade, chips and jelly! To look at the gallery simply click [here](#).

Have a great week!