

SCHOOLS NorthEast weekly update

The future of our region is in school

This week...

With the TUC gathering in Liverpool, the political conference season is about to kick off. There is less than nine months to the anticipated General Election and as ever education is an important political football. With public spending cuts in the spotlight and endless discussion over what will stay and what will go if there is a change at the top, we want to know your views... if you were giving a speech at one of the party conferences what would you be saying? Let us know your views: email think@schoolsnortheast.com

SCHOOLS NorthEast EPIC Summit 2009

There are now less than four weeks to go until the SCHOOLS NorthEast EPIC Summit takes place at Wynyard Hall on 8 October, and time is running out to book your place.

With such a jam packed line-up there's much more to take in than just one person could manage, which is why we're offering a fantastic discount when you book a second place for somebody else from your school.

To see the full programme online and to book your place, visit www.schoolsnortheast.com/summit.

News and events

School Food Trust sponsoring the SCHOOLS NorthEast EPIC Summit

We are delighted to announce that the SCHOOLS NorthEast EPIC Summit 2009 will be sponsored by the School Food Trust and the Million Meals campaign.

Since September 2006, every pupil taking a school lunch is guaranteed, by law, a balanced nutritious meal. The Million Meals campaign aims to ensure that the pupils from each of the 5220 schools who have already signed up to the campaign are eating them. If your school hasn't yet signed up, you can by clicking [here](#) - all you need is your URN number.

The benefits of signing up include gaining access to a panel of experts who can answer any queries you have, as well as a range of case studies, films, details of visits to member schools, and a host of other resources.

In the build up to the Summit, each week we will be looking at one aspect of the work the School Food Trust does in more detail.

Assessment and Monitoring in Turbulent Times CEM conference

Prof Peter Tymms, Director of Durham University's Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring, is a key note speaker at our EPIC Summit in November, and SCHOOLS NorthEast members can receive an exclusive discount when they sign up for a conference being run by the centre on 10 November.

We are supporting the Assessment and Monitoring in Turbulent Times conference, which aims to show Head Teachers and other education leaders the benefit and importance of independent and objective assessment, how CEM's primary and secondary information systems can be used for assessment in schools, and the link between Curriculum for Excellence and assessment.

More information can be found at www.cemcentre.org, where you can also book your place. Simply quote the promotional code **SNE-091110** to claim your exclusive SCHOOLS NorthEast discount.

Innovation in Education Conference

The Innovation Unit are working alongside EducationGuardian to present the Innovation in Education conference at Park Plaza Victoria, London, on 9 November.

The conference aims to bring together the leading experts in education, technology, strategy and industry to explore global education and collectively develop a powerful vision for 21st Century education that enables all children and young people to fulfil their potential as citizens of a global economy.

Confirmed speaker include SCHOOLS NorthEast Patron Lord Puttnam, North East Head Teachers Paul Kelley (Monkseaton High School) and Derek Wise (Cramlington Learning Village) as well as a wide range of speakers from around the world.

If you book before 30 September you can receive a 20% early bird discount. The full programme can be downloaded in PDF format by clicking [here](#). For more information and to book, click [here](#) to visit the conference website. Quote **IU** when booking to guarantee your place.

Edexcel functional skills event

Edexcel are holding a series of events to allow you to find out what Functional Skills will mean for you, your students and the qualifications that you teach when it goes live in September 2010. They have three events designed to meet your needs:

- One-day courses for subject specialists involved in delivering Edexcel Functional Skills qualifications for the first time in 2009/10.
- Overview events for centres not currently offering Functional Skills.
- Onscreen seminars for existing Functional Skills pilot centres.

Information on how to book can be found at www.edexcel.com/trainingbookings .

Interested in travelling abroad?

The Iain Grant Charitable Trust aims to provide professional development opportunities for teachers interested in travelling abroad to study teaching methods used in other countries. The Charity's Trustees currently have funds available. Applications must be made in writing to the Trustees at: Harrison Latham & Company, 97, Tulketh Street, Southport, PR8 1AW.

Sustainable schools

NESPSS are collecting feedback from schools on their use of the Sustainable Schools S3 Self Evaluation Tool, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#). If you feel as though you could help with this research please email rich.hurst@durhamlearning.net

News round-up

Regional News

- [Classroom revolution](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Teesside boy tells of start-of-term accident](#) (Evening Gazette)
- [Tribunal told of school merger issue](#) (Evening Gazette)
- [Yarm twins ace GCSE exams and sign for York](#) (Evening Gazette)
- [School places letter](#) (Northern Echo)

- [CCTV installed at new academy](#) (News Post Leader)
- [New look learning in Blyth](#) (News Post Leader)
- [Dawn of new era as academy opens](#) (Journal)
- [Children's project open day is good to grow](#) (Journal)
- [Gateshead - Ruff justice for canine accomplice](#) (TES)

The year ahead for education

- [We spy another year of revolution](#) (TES)

Conservatives

- [Tories poised to dump diplomas](#) (TES)
- [Diploma to be undone if Tories come to power](#) (TES)
- [Editorial - Vocational debate won't die with jinxed Diploma](#) (TES)
- [Will new schools be the Tories' big idea?](#) (Telegraph)
- [The revival of traditional Tory policy](#) (The Independent)

Labour

- [Labour love lost](#) (TES)
- [Labour school-visit blitz makes education an election battlefield](#) (TES)
- [UK slips down world education league despite 10 years of Labour investment](#) (TES)

Sixth form results

- [Small sixth forms get lower grades](#) (Guardian)
- [Bigger really is better for A-level students looking for a sixth form](#) (Independent)
- [UK losing ground in international education league](#) (Guardian)
- [Pupils forced out halfway through A-level courses to boost school rankings](#) (Guardian)

School music

- [Mass lesson launches school year](#) (BBC News)
- [More music lessons – to improve memory, intelligence and behaviour](#) (Guardian)
- [Pop stars back schools music drive](#) (Independent)
- [Don't string us along on music funds](#) (TES)

Private schools and public benefit

- [QC challenges private school law](#) (Guardian)
- [Private schools simply can't have it all](#) (TES)
- [Dame Suzi Leather's old school slams bursary rules](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Charity commission suffering from "selective perception"](#) (Independent)
- [Benefits as private schools open doors](#) (Independent)

Heads in consultancy

- [Heads get £50,000 pay top-up](#) (TES)

School Report card

- [View from here - Report card does kids a disservice](#) (TES)
- [NY report card shambles casts doubt on England](#) (TES)

Academy failure

- [Flagship Labour academy rated failing by Ofsted \(The Daily Telegraph\)](#)
- [Third academy fails Ofsted inspection \(Guardian\)](#)
- [Academy declared "inadequate" \(The Independent\)](#)

Child poverty

- [Pupils suffer 'shocking' poverty \(BBC News\)](#)
- [Schools 'cannot cope' with extreme poverty \(Telegraph\)](#)
- [Teaching chief to claim poor kids live life mirroring times of Dickens \(Daily Mirror\)](#)
- [The poverty trap: special needs and scarce resources \(TES\)](#)

Classroom cover

- [Bouncers and postmen 'cheap labour' substitutes for teachers \(Guardian\)](#)
- [Beauty therapists and bouncers used as 'cheap' cover teachers in classrooms \(Daily Mail\)](#)
- [School pupils 'taught by untrained staff' \(Telegraph\)](#)
- [Assistants 'taking lessons alone' \(BBC News\)](#)

Cricket and behaviour

- [Cricket 'helps cut bad behaviour' \(Telegraph\)](#)
- [Cricket 'has spin-off for pupils' \(BBC News\)](#)

School uniform

- [School uniforms: a uniform approach to improving exam results \(Telegraph\)](#)

History teaching

- [History in danger \(Daily Mail\)](#)
- [History is being forgotten from GCSE \(Guardian\)](#)
- [Only 30% of pupils take history at GCSE \(The Daily Mail\)](#)

Social mobility

- [Young, gifted and working class \(Guardian\)](#)

Naughty names

- [Poll ranks naughty kids by name \(Independent\)](#)
- [Teachers brand pupils good and bad by names on class register \(Daily Mirror\)](#)

Other education stories

- [Science in schools remains elitist \(Guardian\)](#)
- [Let them play \(TES\)](#)
- [Northern Ireland grammar schools fight to keep 11-plus \(Guardian\)](#)
- [Ease the pain of school fees \(Telegraph\)](#)
- [Prep schools have 'twice as many male role models' \(Daily Mail\)](#)
- [Just what are these forms for? \(TES\)](#)
- [How we trip the boys who fall behind at five \(TES\)](#)
- [BNP may be barred from school governing bodies \(Guardian\)](#)
- [Internet and mobile phones are 'damaging education' \(Telegraph\)](#)

- [Britishness shunned despite PM plea \(TES\)](#)
- [Call for integrated learning to beat languages ennui \(TES\)](#)
- [Schools allowed opt out from “nappy curriculum” \(The Daily Telegraph\)](#)
- [First day of term at Nottingham Academy – the largest school in Europe \(Guardian\)](#)
- [Call for children's well-being to form bedrock \(TES\)](#)
- [How physics is being transformed \(The Independent\)](#)
- [Easter holidays axed by councils \(Daily Telegraph\)](#)

Head to Head

This week's Head to Head is from Ian Wilkinson, who this week took over as Head Teacher at George Stephenson High School in Killingworth. Before taking on his new role, Ian was Deputy Head at King Edward VI School in Morpeth.

- **Last week was** probably the busiest yet best I've ever had
- **The two best things that happened at school last week were** the optimism, support and positive attitude of all the staff and the sheer warmth of reception from the kids!
- **The biggest disappointment at school last week was** failing to feed everyone on the first day due to a new menu, new catering facilities, new tills, new students and not enough staff. However, the second day was a hundred times better and the new facilities, quality and choice of food are fantastic.
- **The funniest thing that happened at school last week was** no one thing – I've just found myself smiling all week
- **One thing that would have made my job easier last week was** knowing some of the answers to the questions I'm now being asked
- **Top of my to-do list for this week is** to actually get back to all those staff who I said “Leave it with me and I'll get back to you”
- **My hero of last week** has to be my family for being there for me, run a close second by my PA (that's a novelty!) and my Deputy who between them have known most of the answers or found them out for me if not!
- **My villain of last week was...** I couldn't possibly say it's far too early
- **“Can I borrow your watch, mine seems to be going too fast!” My tips for good time management are...** just learn to multi-task Paul!!
- **My question for next week's Head is** how do you keep this pace going for another week, never mind another year?

Star pupil - Cricket

Researchers from Loughborough University have found that **unruly pupils who play cricket** display better social skills and teamwork than those taking part in normal PE lessons. The study also found that cricket helped girls to overcome “restrictive gender beliefs” and gain confidence and in playing sport. It comes despite fears that the game may be under threat in state schools because of a lack of equipment and over-crowded timetables. Earlier research found fewer than one in 10 pupils plays cricket and most schools still do not have proper facilities or expert tuition in the sport.

Could try harder...Stereotyping?

A poll taken by parenting website bounty.com discovered this week that teachers identify troublemakers in their by their names and that **pupils called Connor, Callum, Courtney, Chelsea and Jack** are among those deemed to be the most naughty. More than 49 per cent of the teachers surveyed made assumptions about a child based on their name, with 57 per cent of teachers acknowledging that naughtier children tended to be more popular than those who are well behaved.

Opportunities and Resources

British Council funding and support

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, and offer a wealth of funding and free support for international school partnerships and CPD, which provide new and exciting dimensions to teaching and learning.

They manage a wide range of schemes including the DCSF Global Gateway and the DCSF International School Award, which together put you in touch with schools in other countries and provide you with the tools you need to develop global links in your school.

For more information on the opportunities available visit www.globalgateway.org/schools or www.britishcouncil.org/learning.

TES Connect behaviour resources

The Times Educational Supplement has produced a range of resources and support to give tried and tested ways of handling behaviour problems in the classroom.

Resources include the 'traffic light noise leveller' poster, a behaviour management guide, top ten behaviour management tips and behaviour posters.

They can be accessed online by clicking [here](#). You will have to sign up to the website if you are not already a member, which is free and very easy, and makes all of their online resources available to you at the click of a mouse.

Upload your maths resources and win an iPhone

The Association of Teachers of Mathematics (ATM) and TES Connect are working together to help raise the standards of mathematics teaching through the sharing of free quality maths resources.

Upload your maths resources onto their website and you could win one of 9 Apple iPhones or 18 runner-up prizes. The competition is running until 14 September. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges from the Association of Teachers of Mathematics during the last week of September 2009. The winners within each category will receive an iPhone and two runners up within each category will win a digital camera.

For more information or to enter visit www.tes.co.uk/maths-competition. And remember there are no limit to entries, so the more resources you upload, the more chance you have to win!

Let's go green resources

Visit www.letzgogreen.org to download free resources for key stage 3 pupils and teachers. Developed by Future Travel, the resources cover all aspects of sustainable travel and support the teaching of Geography, Science and Citizenship.

Big changes in Maths

A major change in GCSE Maths is on its way – a new curriculum and qualifications will be introduced for all GCSE Maths students from September 2010, as part of reforms in the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study. To download a free guide to the changes visit www.mathsbigchanges.com

Thinking about the Cambridge Pre-U

If you are interested in finding out more about the Cambridge Pre-U exams as an alternative to A Levels, you can attend a free seminar in York on the Tuesday 29 September, 10:30-2pm. To book a place and for more information visit www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu

And finally...

Schools secretary Ed Balls was joined at a school in London by health secretary Andy Burnham this week to provide pupils with advice on how to stop the spread of swine flu. The BBC caught this footage of Mr Balls showing the pupils exactly how to sneeze correctly. You can benefit from this special lesson by clicking [here](#).

Have a great week!