

## SCHOOLS NorthEast weekly update

*The future of our region is in school*

### This week...

Welcome back from what was hopefully a refreshing and relaxing week!

During half term, the DCSF published a new strategy aimed at revolutionising the way Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) is delivered. The strategy is designed to modernise IAG and careers education to make it accessible for today's generation of young people and to keep pace with a rapidly changing economy.

It builds on the recent Schools White Paper which stated that it was both a moral and economic imperative to ensure that every young person turns 18 with the knowledge, skills and qualifications to give them the best chance of success in adult life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In the foreword, Ed Balls says the DCSF "will make sure every young person, whatever their background, can aim for the top and make the most of their talents, whether their strengths are practical, academic or both."

The strategy goes on to discuss how schools and colleges can be at the heart of IAG delivery, and how parents should be helped to assist their children in making the right decisions. It then covers how aspirations can be raised through wider choices and experiences.

The strategy document can be downloaded in full free of charge from the DCSF website by clicking [here](#).

How will you use the new IAG strategy? What advice would you give based around raising the aspiration of your pupils? Let us know what you think at [think@schoolsnortheast.com](mailto:think@schoolsnortheast.com).

### News and events

#### Local Government Summit 2010

The North East Local Government Summit 2010 will outline the vision for the future and address how we can meet the challenges and opportunities facing the public sector at such an important time. This high profile event is the first of its kind in the North East, bringing together local authority councillors and officers from across the region's 12 councils and partner organisations.

Young people from the region are being invited to share their views through three five minute DVDs to be shown at the start of each session. This is a great opportunity for your pupils to work with key national and regional decision makers in shaping the future of the North East.

Pupils from participating schools will be invited to take part in the Summit, joining other delegates in the afternoon breakout sessions. If your school is interested in taking part in the event and you would like more detailed information contact [a.morris@schoolsnortheast.com](mailto:a.morris@schoolsnortheast.com).

#### Nissan Schools Engineering Discovery Event

Nissan will be hosting its second schools engineering event 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](mailto: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.

### **Make Your Mark Challenge 2009**

There is just a week left to register for this year's Make Your Mark Challenge, taking place on 16 November.

The Make Your mark Challenge is the UK's biggest, live one-day enterprise competition with over 50,000 students already signed up. This year the challenge will encourage participating students to come up with innovative business ideas, and to consider their environmental impact. Free to enter, it offers teachers a fun and rewarding opportunity to engage their students in an enterprising way.

The competition is designed for students aged 14-19 and aims to improve their enterprise capabilities including risk-taking, creativity, financial planning and communication.

For more information on how to enter your school please visit [www.makeyourmarkchallenge.org.uk](http://www.makeyourmarkchallenge.org.uk).

### **Sense of Place Conference**

The Hub Learning Team at Tyne and Wear museums are hosting a history conference on 19 November at Preston Hall Museum.

Sense of Place: Local people, Places and Heroes will focus on how teachers can work with local museums to ensure that history plays a central role in promoting an exciting curriculum. Speakers and workshops will focus on the importance of local history.

The day-long conference is completely free of charge, but booking is essential. For further details or to book a place contact the Hub Learning Team on (0191) 263 9860 or email [hubblearning@twmuseums.org.uk](mailto:hubblearning@twmuseums.org.uk).

### **CEM Centre Conference**

Key stage tests are going, teacher assessment is being promoted, computerised assessment is becoming a reality and computer adaptive assessment is now a real possibility. CEM (the Centre for Evaluation & Monitoring), part of Durham University, has been working to rise to these new challenges. CEM works closely with schools, colleges, education authorities and government agencies to provide high quality information through scientifically grounded research. This special one day conference, supported by SCHOOLS NorthEast, will focus on key developments and research from CEM, linking to the changing assessment needs of schools.

The event will take place on 10 November at the Radisson SAS hotel in Durham between 9:30am and 4:30pm.

All SCHOOLS NorthEast members are eligible for an exclusive discounted rate of £165 (normal rate is £195 per delegate). To qualify for this exclusive offer simply complete a booking form quoting the promotional code SNE-091110.

Booking forms and programme details for this event and other CEM events are available to download from [www.cemcentre.org/conferences](http://www.cemcentre.org/conferences). For more information, email: [conferences@cem.dur.ac.uk](mailto:conferences@cem.dur.ac.uk), or contact Amanda Weir or Hannah Roberts, Tel: (0191) 334 4200/4210.

### **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](#).

### **Chemistry in your Shopping Basket special presentations**

To celebrate the Royal Society of Chemistry's biennial Chemistry Week, Anne Willis from Northumbria University and Dr Pater Hoare from Newcastle University are delivering two special large lecture theatre presentations of 'Chemistry in Your Shopping Basket' on Friday 13 November.

Chemistry in your Shopping basket is a Newcastle/Northumbria University co-production which is available throughout the year as a science and chemistry awareness and aspiration raising event which can be delivered in schools to individual classes or larger groups.

The special presentations will take place at Newcastle University at 12:30pm for primary and middle schools, and at 5:30pm for the general public.

For further details or to make a booking contact Anne Willis on (0191) 243 7873 or [anne.willis@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:anne.willis@northumbria.ac.uk) or Peter Hoare on (0191) 222 8542 or [peter.hoare@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:peter.hoare@ncl.ac.uk).

## **News round-up**

This week, the TES featured a story on the way that teachers have been hit by the recession, saying that the Teacher Support Network (TSN) had fielded more than 1,300 calls for emergency financial support – an increase of 120% over the past year. Almost £111,500 was distributed to teachers in England and Wales in schools colleges and universities – a rise of 72% from the same period last year.

Do you think enough is being done to help teachers during a difficult economic period? Or do you disagree with the huge rise in handouts? How would you handle the situation differently? Let us know your views at [think@schoolsnortheast.com](mailto:think@schoolsnortheast.com).

## Regional news

- [Region will reap the benefits of careers advice to primary schools](#) (Journal)
- [Newcastle school for boys launch new sixth form](#) (Journal)
- [Queen to open £19m Washington school](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [School wins fitness award](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Newcastle school governor threatened to stab neighbour](#) (Evening Chronicle)
- [Schools battle goes to High Court](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Parents win fight over school places](#) (Journal)
- [Washington school in bid to help toddler fund](#) (Evening Chronicle)
- [Pupils have designs on police cards](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Whickham school charity week raises cash for Sophie Atay](#) (Evening Chronicle)
- [Author officially opens 'green' school extension](#) (Hexham Courant)
- [Success on a plate for Northumberland schools](#) (News Post Leader)
- [Schoolboy wins cheerleading competition](#) (Evening Chronicle)
- [Children celebrate school's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday](#) (Evening Chronicle)

## Diploma adverts

- [Diploma advert ruled 'misleading'](#) (BBC News)
- [Government ad about diplomas banned](#) (Guardian)
- [Government adverts to promote new diploma deemed 'misleading'](#) (Times)
- [DCSF diploma adverts 'misleading'](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Ministers told diploma adverts are misleading](#) (Independent)

## Faith schools

- [Jewish school JFS refused to admit boy on religious grounds, court told](#) (Guardian)
- [JFS puts faith schools in the dock](#) (Guardian)
- [Jewish school JFS in Supreme Court to deny it broke the law by turning boy away](#) (Times)
- [Tangled up in faith](#) (Guardian)
- [Jewish school's race discrimination appeal goes to Supreme court](#) (TES)

## School place appeals

- [Infant place appeals up by a half](#) (BBC News)
- [Half a million submit appeals for school places](#) (Independent)
- [Three quarters of parents lose appeal over school places](#) (Times)
- [Battle for school places will get worse](#) (Times)

## Sats

- [Brown says primary Sats must stay](#) (BBC News)
- [Brown defends Sats amid union boycott fears](#) (Independent)
- [Brown weighs in to Sats row](#) (TES)

## Parent adviser role

- [Half of schools hire parent adviser only three months after job launched](#) (Guardian)
- [Half of schools hire advisers for parents](#) (Daily Telegraph)

## False teacher accusations

- [One in three teachers falsely accused by pupils](#) (Times)

- [More than a quarter of teachers face false accusations by pupils](#) (TES)
- [Teacher's relief after child cruelty case thrown out](#) (Daily Telegraph)

#### School places cheating report

- [If parents lie, whose fault is that Mr Balls?](#) (Guardian)
- [School places cheating report due](#) (BBC News)

#### Diplomas

- [Sixth form diplomas risk leaving all but brightest pupils behind](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [University bar makes diploma 'second rate', warns agency](#) (TES)

#### Academies

- [Academy is built on Lego education model](#) (TES)
- [Curtain comes down on academy philanthropists flying solo](#) (TES)

#### Primary news

- [New reception system is fresh blow to nurseries](#) (TES)
- [Primary review needs our support](#) (TES)
- [The danger of separating twins at primary school](#) (Guardian)
- [One in five pupils leaves primary school with poor English](#) (Times)

#### Teachers

- [Recession-hit teachers badly out of pocket](#) (TES)
- [Eight new ways to suck eggs](#) (TES)
- [I want to free teachers to work small miracles](#) (TES)
- [Award-winning head suspended for six months 'without reason'](#) (TES)
- [Year 7 teacher assessment match national results but marking worries stay](#) (TES)

#### Parents

- [Parent power is a case for the myth busters](#) (TES)
- [Pushy parents spoil children's fun with too many after school classes](#) (Times)
- [Parent backlash at school that keeps unruly pupils in isolation room to calm down](#) (Daily Mail)

#### Other education news

- [Maths makes the world go round](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Grammar: let me spell it out for you](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Anger at plan to expand grammar school system](#) (Independent)
- [Sinister tendencies](#) (Daily Telegraph)
- [Foreign language teaching is in decline](#) (Independent)
- [A-level students face despair over shortage of university places](#) (Times)
- [Public schools should look to state sector's gifted kids](#) (TES)
- [Praying in the 'capital of atheism'](#) (TES)
- [Girls' self-confidence boosted by sex](#) (TES)
- [Grade banking ban mooted as Ofqual addresses 'ping' factor](#) (TES)
- [Punished for soldiering on: swine flu councils' fury](#) (TES)
- [Sexed-up togs leave uniform policy in tatters](#) (TES)
- [British schools abroad say new standards will protect their brand](#) (TES)

- [How to be top: poor Year 7s outdo richer peers in university ambition](#) (TES)
- [‘Behave or else’? No, let’s mediate](#) (TES)

## Star pupil... *a good night’s sleep*

Experts from the Sleep Council have called this week for pupils to be taught the benefits of sleep as part of the national curriculum, with the Government saying it would consider the proposals and could include sleep lessons as part of study of personal and social health. The experts, who include doctors and specialists, said that teaching youngsters the value of sleep should be as important as teaching them about healthy eating and exercise. A survey of more than 2000 adults indicates that almost half of parents with children under the age of five did not know that a three-year-old needed 12 hours sleep each day, and that six in ten said sleep should be included in the national curriculum.

## Could try harder... *school photographs*

As Autumn rolls around again, pupils and teachers alike get ready for the annual round of school photographs, but this week the Guardian’s Lucy Mangan asked whether anybody actually likes theirs? She points out that it’s now worse than ever for pupils, with parents able to ‘multiply the horrors’ by producing key rings and other novelty items from what would once merely adorn the mantelpiece for twelve months. To read her analysis, click [here](#).

## Opportunities and Resources

### **DCSF support for writing in primary teaching**

The DCSF have launched a new guide helping teachers to personalise planning for writing and to improve pupils’ progress in the area. The materials focus on developing the key strands 9, 10 and 11 and planning within a year and across the primary age range.

To access Support for Writing visit [www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/nationalstrategies/ad14/sfw](http://www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/nationalstrategies/ad14/sfw).

### **Sky Sports Living for Sport**

Sky Sports Living for Sport is a new free initiative which encourages pupils to take on different activities and learn new sports, from football to fencing; basketball to boccia. Teachers can use these sessions to help pupils work towards measurable self-development goals.

As pupils grow and develop they are encouraged to put their new skills into practice by developing and managing their own sporting events. Sky Sports are providing free online planning tools and sports kit, supporting teachers to help young people be the best they can be.

For more information visit [www.skysports.com/livingforsport](http://www.skysports.com/livingforsport).

### **BT Better World campaign**

The BT Better World campaign is providing teachers and parents with a range of easy-to-use resources and activities to help kids develop their speaking and listening abilities. All of the resources are free, and include ‘Molly and the Pirate’, aimed at children in KS2, helping them to develop good communication skills and team work, and ‘The Personal Skills Journey’, a series of PDF downloads designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to help in the transition from school to the wider world.

For more information and to download the resources visit [www.btbetterworld.com](http://www.btbetterworld.com).

### **Free TeachShare resources**

TeachShare offers free online information and resources for schools who are working to become more sustainable.

To create your free TeachShare account, simply follow these instructions:

- Go to [www.teachshare.org.uk](http://www.teachshare.org.uk) and click on *Register New Account*;
- Submit the exclusive SCHOOLS NorthEast access code SNE9;
- Fill in your details and create your username and password (you will need to register with your school email address);
- You will be sent an email which contains a link to activate your account.

If you encounter any problems, please contact [support@teachshare.org.uk](mailto:support@teachshare.org.uk).

### **Teachers TV education resources**

Education website Teachers TV offer a huge range of free video resources across English, Maths, Science and ICT for early years, primary and secondary pupils. Resources are grouped based on Key Stage, and can be found simply by using a key word search.

They also offer a great selection of educational videos aimed at teachers, teaching assistants, school leaders and governors. Simply go to [www.teachers.tv](http://www.teachers.tv) for more information and to take advantage of this great free opportunity.

### **Appetite for Action resources**

Appetite for Action is a free sustainable food programme from Sky and Global Action Plan for all primary schools. They offer free teaching resources covering a wide range of issues related to sustainable food. Students are encouraged to take action to help protect the environment.

To sign up visit [www.appetiteforaction.org.uk](http://www.appetiteforaction.org.uk).

### **Free maths seminars**

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](http://www.mathsbigchanges.com), where you can also book your place on a free seminar to find out exactly how the changes will affect you and your school.

### **And finally...**

How often do we see the familiar images of identical twins, beaming about their achievements when exam results are released? Research has shown that the surprisingly common practice of separating twins at the start of primary school can have a serious effect on their emotional wellbeing compared to twins who are kept together. The research also points out that as half of multiple births are premature, many twins enter school too early and spend the next 11 years trying to catch up academically. The Guardian decided to look at twins who have achieved fame and fortune despite this apparent disadvantage, which you can see by clicking [here](#).

**Have a great week!**