

Subject: SCHOOLS NorthEast Weekly Update - Week 12



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Our update goes out to every Head Teacher in the North East weekly, but if anybody else in your school or LA would like to receive the Update, please send their name and email address to r.clegg@schoolsnortheast.com

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Focus on...the 'good' school postcode lottery

Ofsted's first Annual report under the leadership of Sir Michael Wilshaw heralds a change of approach from the Inspectorate by including analysis of school performance at a regional and local level league tables of Local Authorities and further details of the role of their new Regional structure.

The report is titled The Importance of Leadership, covers the period of 2011/12 and states that there are more good and outstanding schools in England than ever before. Despite the many positive conclusions in the report, the media have focused on Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw's concern over the "more than two million children that are being taught in underperforming schools because of a postcode lottery which affects even the most affluent areas."

The headline findings of the report are:

Schools are getting better – schools in England have improved considerably over the last decade and there are good grounds for optimism with improvements in the quality of teaching and school management and a growing number of the most effective school leaders committing to improving schools beyond their own.

There are too many schools that require improvement - more needs to be done to improve attainment gaps and there is marked inequality in access to a good school across the country

The North East, its schools and LAs receive several mentions throughout the Annual Report.

The region is singled out for its poor performance in English with the Chief Inspector stating his concern that "that in regions like Yorkshire and The Humber and the North East fewer than 60% of pupils make the expected progress in English compared to nearer 80% in London". On a more

positive note Northumberland is highlighted as an area where high proportion of primary pupils have access to a good school and Darlington is praised for being an area where “a child has a good chance of attending both a good primary and secondary school.” In addition of the six case studies showcased, two are focused on North East schools. **Walbottle Village Primary in Newcastle** is recognised for its “remarkable transformation” from Special Measures to Outstanding through its inter-school partnership (with Beech Hill School, Newcastle) and **Stranton Primary School in Hartlepool** is praised for its “extraordinary outcomes given the background and levels of attainment of children on entry”.

Overall the report suggests that the North East fares better in the quality of primary education than secondary provision.

The region is third in the country on Ofsted’s overall effectiveness measure at primary and eighth out of the nine regions at secondary. Despite this a greater percentage of learners at secondary level are in outstanding schools than at primary level – 24% and 20% respectively.

Looking across Local Authority areas in the region, there is a wide variation in the percentage of pupils ‘going to a good school’ between primary and secondary. For example, Middlesbrough is ranked 22 out of 150 LAs nationally for the percentage of primary pupils that go to a ‘good school’ (at 81%) whilst it is 148 out of 150 LAs at secondary level with 32% of students going to a ‘good school’. Northumberland tops the table in the region for the percentage of primary pupils going to a ‘good school’ with 83% (18th in the national LA rankings) but is 117th nationally at secondary level with 60%. Conversely, Durham has the highest percentage of secondary pupils in the region that go to a ‘good school’ (79%) ranking 41st in England but is at 73rd for Primary with 70%.

Percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding primary schools

National position out of 150 LAs	LA	% of pupils attending good or outstanding school
18	Northumberland	83%
22	Middlesbrough	81%
23	Darlington	80%
25	Hartlepool	79%
39	Gateshead	75%
64	North Tyneside	71%
65	Stockton-on-Tees	71%
73	Durham	70%
80	Newcastle upon Tyne	68%
82	Redcar and Cleveland	68%
122	South Tyneside	61%
125	Sunderland	60%

Percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding secondary schools

National position out of 150 LAs	LA	% of pupils attending good or outstanding school
41	Durham	79%
61	Darlington	74%
68	Gateshead	73%
70	Newcastle upon Tyne	71%

89	Redcar and Cleveland	68%
100	North Tyneside	66%
109	South Tyneside	64%
117	Northumberland	60%
121	Stockton-on-Tees	58%
136	Hartlepool	46%
137	Sunderland	45%
148	Middlesbrough	32%

Ofsted's data view tool also enables you to compare the overall performance of the schools in an LA area to schools in any other LAs on each Ofsted category heading and on the deprivation level of pupils. For each local authority, the tool also suggests a list of similar LAs enabling like to like comparisons, for example, Newcastle and Gateshead are suggested as being similar to each other. So if you compare 'the quality of teaching and learning' in primary schools with the highest levels of deprivation in those LAs in 2011/12, 26% of the Gateshead schools inspected were deemed Outstanding on this measure whilst none of the Newcastle schools received an Outstanding judgement. However, using the same heading for the secondary schools with the highest level of deprivation, neither of the areas had any schools classed as having Outstanding Teaching and Learning but 40% of the Newcastle secondaries were Good, whereas no Gateshead secondary meeting the criteria was better than satisfactory on this judgement.

All of this data comes with a huge health warning as often the numbers involved are very small so one school can represent a very significant percentage of the overall results and it would be easy to jump to sweeping conclusions or invalid position on the basis of these statistics. However the data does provide a useful starting point for asking questions and over the next few weeks SCHOOLS NorthEast will attempt to get under the skin of the wealth of statistics we now have at our fingertips in understanding the educational state of the North East region.

Speaking on the BBC, Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw said:

"We are comparing today similar sorts of local authorities, with similar demographics, similar numbers of children on free school meals, similar levels of deprivation, so we have tried to be as fair as possible... We'll be asking a question – why is it parents in some parts of the country have less than a 50% chance of getting their children into a good primary school where there are other parts of the country where that chance is over 90%? It is a dramatic difference and it's not on. It's completely unacceptable and we need to find out what on earth is happening in these areas where there is such poor provision. It's not just a question of naming and shaming. We really want to find out what's happening so we can disseminate the good practice that is happening in particular areas and make that more widely known".

Responding to the report a Department for Education spokesman said Wilshaw was "right that standards in some local authorities are simply not good enough" Stating, "there are still too many schools that do not provide a good enough education. We make no apology for introducing reforms to drive up standards in schools."

ASCL General Secretary Brian Lightman highlighted the increase in the number of good and outstanding schools detailed in the report:

"With this strong evidence of improvement, it is now time for the government to trust school leaders and to stop adding further layers of accountability. For the majority of schools, which are successful and improving, Ofsted inspection should be a 'light touch' validation of schools' own self-evaluation" he added "Regional variations in standards are a concern and the causes need to be better understood. The key question is how do we best support these schools to improve and I am pleased to hear the Chief Inspector talk about learning from best practice in other schools. Research shows that using the *strengths of established and successful schools to support struggling schools is key to driving the improvement agenda locally.*"

Shadow Education Secretary, Stephen Twigg, said “Labour could take credit for much of the improvement. However, there remains an arc of underachievement which is holding back too many young people. Even in David Cameron’s backyard of Oxfordshire, there are too many coasting schools. We need to learn from success stories like Wigan and Darlington to understand why other areas are less successful.”

To read access the full report click [here](#) and for the data view tool click [here](#).

What’s your view? Are LA and regional comparisons useful? Why does a ‘postcode lottery’ in access to good schools exist? What can be done to ensure more children and young people have access to good schools? Why do you think we now have more good and outstanding schools than ever before? What conditions are needed at a local, regional and national level to further improve school quality in the North East? Let us know, email think@schoolsnortheast.com

- [Ofsted's annual report reveals wide variations in school improvement](#) (CYPN)
- [Ofsted boss says access to good education depends on where you live](#) (Guardian)
- [Secondary school quality is 'a postcode lottery', warns Ofsted](#) (Independent)
- [Ofsted warns on 'unacceptable' gaps in school standards](#) (BBC News)
- [Ofsted warns over postcode lottery in school standards](#) (Telegraph)
- [Ofsted third of five year olds not ready for school](#) (Telegraph)
- [Ofsted annual report postcode lottery](#) (The Mirror)
- [Kids failed as Ofsted blasts schools](#) (The Sun)
- [Ofsted schools report highlights that chance of good education depends on where you live](#) (Northern Echo)

Local news by area

Top local news

North Tyneside Council awarded funding for literacy catch up project

The Education Endowment Fund (EEF) is funding four projects focusing on decoding to improve literacy. One of the four projects includes funding North Tyneside Council with £520,064 to run a randomised control trial on the impact of paired reading approaches, with Year 9 pupils tutoring Year 7 pupils in English in structured sessions for 15 weeks. This will be the first trial of peer tutoring in UK secondary schools. The project will involve nine schools in North Tyneside and reach 3,600 pupils.

- [Literacy Catch Up Projects](#)

Durham

- [Futuristic classroom designed by Durham University](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Durham's chief constable goes back to school](#) (Northern Echo)
- [Meetings about free schools for Consett](#) (Northern Echo)

Gateshead

- [Gibside School in Whickham gets 'outstanding' Ofsted report](#) (Chronicle Live)

Newcastle

- [Cheviot Primary School in Wish appeal to help finish garden](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Newcastle's Royal Grammar School head tells of pride as school tops list](#) (Journal Live)

Northumberland

- [Students listen to harrowing stories of Nazi death camps](#) (Hexham Courant)
- [Governors ousted from failing school](#) (Hexham Courant)
- [Blyth pupils support Christmas shoebox charity appeal](#) (Journal Live)
- [Students do battle in top game award](#) (Morpeth Herald)
- [Postbox gets stamp of approval](#) (Morpeth Herald)
- [David spreads the gospel of good books](#) (Morpeth Herald)
- [Pupils are red-y to help with charity](#) (News Post Leader)
- [Stephen takes on head role at high school](#) (News Post Leader)
- [Youngsters learn a series of life skills](#) (News Post Leader)
- [School secures funding for new £300k 3G pitch](#) (News Post Leader)

North Tyneside

- [Forest Hall school appeals for help with Wish tokens](#) (Chronicle Live)

Stockton

- [Norton school burgled and charity money is stolen](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Stockton teenager to speak at House of Commons](#) (Gazette Live)

South Tyneside

- [We're winning the war against truants](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Boxing clever for needy children](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Banzai star's visit reels in students](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [College's joy at 'rapid' rise in standards](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Teenager's culinary delight for TV chef](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Pupils put foot down on the buses](#) (Shields Gazette)
- ['Good' school is on the up and up](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Pupils setting sights on New York trip](#) (Shields Gazette)

Sunderland

- [Pupils get on their bikes to win award](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Watchdog says Sunderland school is making progress](#) (Sunderland Echo)

Redcar

- [Redcar's Lakes Primary School celebrates good Ofsted report](#) (Gazette Live)

Regional

- [Schools can scoop this £135,000 prize](#) (Journal Live)
- [Ofsted schools report highlights that the chance of a good education depends on where you live](#) (Northern Echo)

Top national education news

UK education ranked sixth in the world

The UK's education system is ranked sixth best in the developed world, according to a global league table published by education firm Pearson. The rankings combine international test results and data such as graduation rates between 2006 and 2010.

This composite picture puts the UK in a stronger position than the influential Pisa tests from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - which is also one of the tests included in this ranking.

Looking at education systems that succeed, the study concludes that spending is important, but not as much as having a culture that is supportive of learning. Looking at the two top countries - Finland and South Korea - the report says that there are many big differences, but the common factor is a shared social belief in the importance of education and its "underlying moral purpose".

- [UK education sixth in global ranking](#) (BBC)
- [The Learning Curve Report](#)

Most schools 'have reduced careers advice'

A survey of professional careers advisers working in 1,500 secondary schools reveals "dramatic reductions" in the amount of professional careers guidance on offer. The Careers England research was undertaken because of widespread fears about the impact of the change brought about by the Education Act 2011 in England. The results showed the level of careers advice has been maintained in only 16.5% of the 1,568 schools covered in the survey. Careers England said this meant that 83.5% of schools had reduced provision. Yesterday, Government, announced that it will extend the duty to provide access to impartial careers guidance down to age 14 (Year 8) and up to age 18 in schools and colleges.

- [Most schools 'have reduced careers advice'](#) (BBC News)

Pay Head Teachers to expand top schools, ministers told

It has been proposed that cash bonuses should be used to "incentivise school expansion" and ensure Head Teachers are rewarded for the extra stress and workload associated with taking more pupils. Payments worth tens of thousands of pounds could be made to Heads of high-performing schools who oversee a sustained increase in pupil numbers without harming exam results, it was claimed.

The study, commissioned by the Department for Education, concluded that the best schools had failed to expand over the last decade, denying many parents places at their preferred secondary school.

- [Paying teachers more to expand top schools](#) (Telegraph)

What else we learnt this week...

- [Academies programme £1bn over budget, says watchdog](#)
- [Schools 'struggling to teach about Christianity in RE'](#)
- [Bad teachers can cost pupils 'half a GCSE'](#)
- [Apprenticeships 'should be seen as equal to a degree'](#)

Resources and Opportunities

Teacher and parent guides to CBI Education report

The CBI has released two new guides to their First Steps report on education launched last week. The guides are aimed at Parents and Teachers respectively and are available [here](#).

The Pupil Premium: How to spend it wisely

Recently, the SCHOOLS NorthEast team was on the move, visiting groups of Head Teachers across the region alongside Prof Robert Coe, Director of the Centre for Evaluation & Monitoring (CEM) and Professor of Education at Durham University. Prof Coe shared the findings of his ground-breaking research after co-authoring the Sutton Trust Pupil Premium report which provides guidance for teachers based on thousands of research studies.

Prof Coe delivered a very informative session on how best to spend the Pupil Premium including evidence based examples of best practice. Feedback from the sessions was extremely positive and many of the Heads who attended gained a lot from it. If you would like to view the presentation used in the sessions [please click here](#). **Slide 12** in particular is very useful as it gives a graphical overview of 'value for money.'

If you have any questions regarding the Pupil Premium presentation that you would like SCHOOLS NorthEast to ask Prof Coe, then please email think@schoolsnortheast.com

Assistance for Academies Applying for the Capital Maintenance Funding

In the run up to the 18 December 2012 deadline for applications for the ACMF, [Aura](#) are offering assistance for those academies applying this time around, those that applied last time around and were not successful, those that are applying for sums over £100k, and those that have a serious health, safety or environmental risk that could affect insurance renewal.

All academies open by or on 1 January 2013 are eligible to submit an application for up to two projects – either tackling building condition issues or expanding provision. The deadline for submitting applications is 18 December for academies converted before 30 September 2012, and 1 February 2013 for academies converting after 30 September 2012.

Aura works with clients to understand their visions and transform them into buildings and services. To date they have provided in excess of £280m of funding and delivered consultancy, design and construction services to schools in the North East. For further information on how Aura can assist you in your ACMF application please contact Marisa Nethercott on 0191 2236818 or email:m.nethercott@auranewcastle.com

Free two hour History Lesson for Key Stage 2 Learners

Newcastle United Foundation's new heritage project, Toon Times, would like to offer all Primary Schools across the region the opportunity to participate in a FREE two hour history lesson focussing on the heritage of Newcastle United.

The lesson will allow pupils to share and celebrate the heritage of the football club with a hands-on history experience examining artefacts from the Newcastle United archives and allow learners to focus on chronological order and form their own timeline of key events.

Teachers will also be provided with a CD-ROM loaded with numerous resources to remain engaged with history and the club. Ideal as part of a wider project or as a one off treat for learners to book please contact Gavin Ferry, Project Coordinator on gavin.ferry@nufc.co.uk or call or call 0191 201 8424

Latest Newsletter from 'I am learning'

I am learning is the UK's leading provider of games based homework and revision for schools. Using games to motivate learners, I am learning facilitates effective homework, revision and exam practice whilst promoting independent learning.

[Click here](#) to view their latest newsletter full of interesting news, exciting resources and helpful ideas!

Education Network Competition: Win a Football Kit for your school

For your chance to win a new Football Strip for your school complete and send back Education Network's fun 'spot the difference' competition! They still have two strips to be won before Christmas 2012.

[Click here to download the competition](#) and simply circle all the answers. Fax back to 0191 2323111, or email to newcastle@ednetwork.co.uk or post to ' The Education Network, Watson House, New Bridge Street West, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 8AQ. We then enter your school into a draw which will take place towards the end of November and December.

Congratulations to October's winner, **Boldon School!**

Head Teachers Roundtable – your views needed

You may have heard of the Head Teachers Roundtable, a group of influential school leaders who met on Twitter. The group is now gathering views and opinions on Curriculum and Assessment to present to DfE through an online consultation. [Please click here to find out more and take part.](#)

Events

Is Academy Conversion on Your 2013 “to-do” List? - 10 December, Sunderland & 12 December, Durham

To support local schools through the decision making process around academy conversion Samuel Phillips are hosting a couple of round table discussions. The objective is for the sessions to be led by the people that are directly affected by the issues around academy conversion. Representatives from Samuel Phillips and head teachers who have already made the journey will be there to offer clarity on risks and share experience of running conversion projects.

These FREE events will take place between 4pm and 6pm on Monday 10 December at the National Glass Centre in Sunderland, and on Wednesday 12 December at Durham County Cricket Club. Afternoon tea will be served following the round table discussion giving you the opportunity to talk informally to fellow guests and event representatives.

To book online for the Sunderland event [please click here](#) and for the Durham event [please click here](#).

Woodham Academy Open day – 29 January 2013

For the last 5 years Woodham Academy has been working with the Australian Consultancy, Group 8 Education. There have been significant improvements in pupil engagement, behaviour, staff collaboration, achievement and most of all in narrowing the gap and the school has created a culture where staff and pupils respect each other and work together to achieve the very best.

To showcase how they have achieved this Woodham Academy is hosting an open morning on January 29 between 9.30am – 1.00pm. The open morning will be at Woodham Academy, Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4AX. Booking forms are available by emailing annemtimothy@gmail.com or contacting the school on 01325 300328. Cost per person is £30.00 to include lunch.

Behaviour for Learning – 24 January 2013

Learners with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) are a continuing concern for school staff. This motivating one day course, led by Educational Psychologist Rob Long, will explore support for these students, classroom management, behaviour protocols for learning and a three tiered approach to behaviour.

The course will take place on Thursday 24 January 2013 at The Metro Centre Marriott Hotel and costs £175 +VAT. SCHOOLS NorthEast Enhanced Members are able to attend for the discounted price of £125+VAT if a place is booked before 21 December or £155+VAT if booked after this date.

[Find out more about the course here.](#)

LCP Training Courses – January - March 2013

LCP are holding several training courses in the Spring term on a variety of topics including: 'Being Fit and Ready for Ofsted', 'Setting Targets and Tracking Pupil Progress in Key Stages 1 and 2', 'The Quality of Teaching' and 'The Critical Link between School Self-Evaluation and Strategic Planning'.

The courses will take place on a range of dates between January and March 2013 at a variety of locations across the Midlands and the North of England. Prices start from just £75. For more information follow this link: <http://www.lcp.co.uk/school-management/training> or contact Lucy Bush on (01926) 886914 to book a place.

Effective Classroom Observation - 11 December 2012 & 5 February 2013

Take part in a two day course where you will learn how to collect and record evidence to make secure judgements under the 2012 Ofsted framework. Along with methods for more rigorous evaluation of pupils' progress through work scrutiny, discussion with pupils and consideration of performance data, you will also discuss how to ensure that feedback to teachers is developmental, constructive and productive and what Ofsted inspectors look for during inspections.

The event will take place at the Science Learning Centre North East and will cost £800 (+VAT). To book please contact Nicola Hall on 0191 3706200 or email n.l.hall@durham.ac.uk.

Number crunch

In this new feature SCHOOLS NorthEast will give you some thought provoking statistic from the latest educational research.

- More than **nine in 10 people** back the Department for Education's proposal to make foreign languages compulsory for primary school pupils aged seven to 11.
- Teach First will aim to train **2,000 exceptional graduates** with high academic ability as teachers by 2015/16 – **four times** the number who took part in 2010 when the Coalition Government came to power.
- **71% of graduates** choosing to train for a career in the classroom now have a 2:1 or higher.
- **24,559 inspections** were carried out by Ofsted in 2011/12

Have a great week!

If you have any issues you would like to see covered in the Update, or any other comments, I would love to hear from you at think@schoolsnortheast.com