

Learning Matters

News and information for staff in educational settings

Spring term – February 8 2008

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Articles covering national curriculum key stages as per following codes

EYF: For early years foundation

KS1: For key stage 1 staff

KS2: For key stage 2 staff

KS3: For key stage 3 staff

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ALL: For staff across all stages

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Welcome from Terry Parkin

At a couple of our regular headteachers' meetings last year I asked for 'volunteers' to advise Southwark Council on the development of our case for the next round of national primary capital funding. The funding is contingent upon us preparing a 20 page document – our Southwark schools for the future primary strategy for change.

Some of you were committed enough to express your interest. We met on January 28 and 29 with colleagues Bob Worth (Gloucester), Evelyn Holdsworth (John Donne), Karen Fowler (Michael Faraday), Keith Fox (St John's Walworth), Liz Robinson (Surrey Square Juniors), Steve Owens (St Anthony's), Terri de Quincey (Charles Dickens) and Teresa Neary (Cherry Gardens) to discuss how they could contribute to the development process. A number of others volunteered but were prevented from participating due to clashes of dates, and so on.

Independent adviser Hewitt-Freeborn and Associates presented a raw analysis of our primary estate data. Colleagues from Bryanston Square discussed the fundamental issue of transformation with us. We also talked through the very prescriptive parameters set by national government.

We are required to look at the local perspective (characteristics and priorities), undertake a baseline analysis of performance, buildings, deprivation and projections, look at our long term aims (what needs to change over 14 years?), look at our approach to change (what is transformation and how will it be secured?) and outline our initial investment priorities for the first four years, showing how we will maximize investment streams. This has given us the opportunity to bring together a number of funding streams which will certainly be of benefit to schools.

We have to address the five Every Child Matters objectives, inclusion and special needs, personalised learning, choice and diversity, value for money and 'world class' standards.

The hardest part is the task of looking at our management of surplus places, performance above floor targets, the pattern of schools and integration with other programmes.

To add to the pressure, we have to prepare all of this all by June!

It is vital that this strategy represents the views of Southwark's primary school community including parents, governors and other education stakeholders. We will be consulting widely on a draft within the next couple of months, but I am keen to have your feedback on our work so far, to make sure we are on the right track. The eight primary headteachers mentioned above have begun working on some general principles for primary education in Southwark, which we would like to test with you. Specifically, these are our long term aims and our approach to transformation.

I hope you can attend a meeting on March 7, from 1pm to 3pm at Cator Street Learning and Business Centre to give us your thoughts. Please let my colleague Rachel Montgomery rachel.montgomery@southwark.gov.uk know if you are able to attend. This will help us to build a strategy that accurately reflects all of our aims and objectives for primary education in Southwark.

I am grateful to colleagues who have taken time from their busy schools to pursue this important work and look forward to sharing this work with you as it progresses.

Terry Parkin, deputy director children's services, education

For all staff

Commissioning framework for children and young people services (ALL)

The recently published commissioning framework for children and young people's services in Southwark is now available. The framework sets out our local approach to commissioning, outlining the principles and standards that should be adhered to by partner agencies in their commissioning activities. Headteachers will also use this framework to commission services in the future.

It is a guide to support commissioning across our partners, and sets standards for the development of individual service commissioning strategies. It is designed to ensure that opportunities to joint commission are maximised.

Donna Kinnair, director of nursing and children's commissioning, said "This document unifies all commissioners across children's services. It is a key step towards ensuring that we all commission using the same quality standards and processes."

Read more about [Southwark's approach to commissioning](#).

Contact Lucy Vaughan on 020 7525 3554
Email lucy.vaughan@southwark.gov.uk

Raising the bar – narrowing the gap for children looked after (All)

Southwark currently has over 500 children to whom we are corporate parents. Of these 40% are educated in Southwark schools.

It is my role to support and challenge schools to obtain the best possible outcomes for all our looked after children - addressing barriers and narrowing gaps in learning.

Despite a plethora of initiatives, over recent years, the gap in attainment between children in care and those who remain with their families widens from the early years and becomes very significant during key stage 3. In 2007 only nine percent of children looked after attained five good GCSEs including English and Maths.

We cannot change the past or collapse the personal histories of these young people.

What we can and should do is ensure that they leave school with qualifications. Each student's progress needs to be closely monitored and compared with those children from more stable backgrounds. Appropriate intervention strategies at the right time can make a huge difference.

View the [bar charts](#) prepared by MIA on CLA attainment at KS 1, 2, 3 and 4

If you have any questions please contact vicky.gough@britishcouncil.org

For all staff

Youth activities programme takes new referrals (ALL)

Positive activities for young people (PAYP) is now able to take on new referrals. If you work with individuals aged eight and over who might benefit from getting involved in activities, with the support of an experienced key worker, then a referral to PAYP would be a positive move. There are no costs to your school or to the young person.

Read more about the [PAYP](#) and view the [referral form](#) , which must be signed by the young person.

If you have any questions contact [Graham Brown](#) on 020 7635 2673.

Pupil Voice Survey (ALL)

The Pupil Voice survey is back for 2008.

Pupil Voice was established three years ago to assist schools to collect the views of their pupils for inclusion in their SEF.

The survey is open to all year 5 and year 9 pupils in Southwark schools. If your school is participating in the online version of Pupil Voice, you have the option to survey all pupils across years 4 to 11. The attached document highlights both the advantages and disadvantages of taking up this offer.

We are continuing to promote the online version of the survey as completing the survey online is

- More efficient and cost-effective
- More environmentally friendly
- Quicker and more accurate in terms of data collection and delivering results back to schools

Paper questionnaires are available.

The questionnaires, administration guidance, analysis and reports will again be provided free to all participating schools, with reports and analysis to be circulated either at the end of the summer term, or early in the autumn term.

The timing of this year's survey is one of the items covered in the consultation that we are currently running until the end of February.

Read [full details](#) on how to participate a. Please send completed [reply forms](#) to MIA by Friday February 29.

Consultation on the 2008 Pupil Voice Survey

We are running a short consultation period prior to the 2008 survey. There are a number of changes we are considering making to the survey, and we would value your feedback to ensure Pupil Voice continues to meet your needs.

- 'Pupil Voice needs to evolve to ensure it remains a useful and valuable tool for schools in school planning, and for Young Southwark when reviewing strategic priorities.
- Feedback from headteachers has prompted us to consider bringing forward the timing of the 2008 survey so that it is no longer at the end of the summer term

- We would also like to considerably shorten the survey. This will mean it is quicker for pupils to complete, uses less curriculum time, and is therefore less of a drain on teaching resources
- We would like to turn around the survey results for schools more speedily. This is unlikely to be possible, where schools continue to administer paper based surveys

Read [full details of the consultation](#).

Your responses and feedback are essential to help shape the Pupil Voice Survey for the future.

Please send any completed consultation forms back to **MIA by Friday February 29**.

Contact Katherine Stittle on 020 7525 5046

Email katherine.stittle@southwark.gov.uk

Muslim art workshops (ALL)

The Southwark Muslim Women's Association (SMWA) at Bellenden Old School, Bellenden Road, is offering a week of workshops on Islamic arts and culture for Southwark schools, from Monday March 3 to Friday March 7, inclusive.

The SMWA has secured the services of some of the best practitioners in their fields to deliver sessions on theatre, music, fashion, cookery, art, and e-learning. The week is aimed at Muslim and non-Muslim students alike in Years 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, and will give participants a first hand experience of the rich tapestry of Islamic culture. It will also make a significant contribution to the new duty on schools to promote community cohesion.

Teachers and students will also have the opportunity to see Exhibition Islam, a professional museum style exhibition which allows visitors to discover the richness of the Islamic faith. This touring exhibition has already been to venues across the UK and the rest of Europe and is the biggest of its kind to visit Southwark.

The SMWA can accommodate up to 100 pupils in a morning or afternoon session each day. For further details or to make a group booking for your school, call the SMWA on **020 7732 8053** or email sarasmwa@yahoo.com

[View the SMWA brochure](#)

Contact Michael Cleere, community cohesion coordinator, Southwark Council on 020 7525 5645

Email michael.cleere@southwark.gov.uk

Right words competition (ALL)

Right Words is a competition for all English and citizenship students in England at key stage 4 and is intended to inspire them to develop an understanding of an important human rights issue affecting young people, their peers - who are caught in the civil conflict and ethnic cleansing currently raging in Darfur, Sudan. Students are invited to write a story, poem or essay inspired by the Darfur crisis, and the best pieces will be published and performed at a public Human Rights Watch London network event.

We hope that it will encourage students to think about an important global issue and to stretch their imaginations and develop their writing skills; and lesson plans available for download from our

website mean that students can be fulfilling national curriculum requirements in English and citizenship along the way.

Find out more about the competition at www.rightwords.org.uk, or call Jo Phillips on 07815 784382.

Ideas for kids website (ALL)

IdeasForTheKids.co.uk is the most comprehensive free online source of places to go and things to do with kids in the UK. It is aimed at parents and families and has over 10,000 child-friendly venues and attractions listed across the UK.

For all staff

Unicorn puppet workshops (ALL)

The Unicorn Theatre has a number of workshops and educational resources planned throughout the year.

In February, to accompany our new puppetry production Lighten Up, we have eight free workshops available (fully sponsored by our donators) to local schools, suitable for key stage 1 and early key stage 2, linking with science, drama and citizenship. There is a free resource pack for teacher available on the [website](#).

For more information contact Vid Simoniti, press and marketing assistant on 020 7645 0545.

Schools art in the class: a resource book (ALL)

Fancy a real work of art as a teaching aid?

With the help of a team of teachers we created a list of 24 works of art to lend to Southwark schools.

We also produced an illustrated book showing each work with suggestions of their use in four primary subject areas: people, nature, symbols/abstracts, objects/meanings plus numerous other ideas of how to work with the art.

Works of art are delivered and collected at the beginning and end of each half term.

For a copy of the book to be sent to you email christopher.jordan@southwark.gov.uk, giving your name, position, school with address and telephone number and your email address.

Tribute Trust new after school music (ALL)

The Tribute Trust are running a new after school music program '**Musicworks**'.

The [Tribute Trust](#) is a charitable organization whose focus is to provide an environment of fun and learning, for young people from, through the arts such as film, dance, drama and music.

'**Musicworks**' is a music training program which takes place every Thursday evening for two hours, teaching drum kit, African drumming, guitar, keyboard, music technology and vocals teaching from ages 10 to 19. The club is located in the West Dulwich area near Sydenham Hill station.

Read more about [Musicworks](#)

Contact us if you would like us to come to your school and give a brief presentation and workshop, outlining and showcasing the music courses.

Contact us for further information or if you are interested in our program on 020 8761 2929
Email mail@tributetrust.co.uk

Ethnic minority achievement

Consultation on the draft ethnic minority achievement strategy (ALL)

A [draft ethnic minority achievement strategy](#) has been distributed to schools, and we are inviting your comments and views on this document. Once finalised, it will play a significant part in the overarching children's services strategy to work in partnership with schools to raise standards.

Evidence shows us that not all children and young people achieve equally well in our schools and settings. The EMA strategic plan describes the Southwark context, provides background data and trends in attainment and strategic priorities, intended outcomes and proposed ways of working.

We hope that the strategy will inform the debate around the best ways of addressing these equality issues together with schools and settings.

All contributions and comments are welcome, particularly from staff that are involved or interested in this work. [View questionnaire](#)

Contact Paulette Houslin on 020 7525 5088 or email paulette.houslin@southwark.gov.uk.

Healthy Schools

Healthy Living Week - February 25 to 29 2008 (ALL)

Following on from the very successful anti-bullying/positive behaviour week in Southwark, where over half of our schools participated in activities, we are holding a healthy living week to raise awareness of healthy eating and physical activity.

Recent figures yet again show that there are high levels of young people who are overweight or obese in the borough are a cause for concern, and addressing policy and practice in schools and other educational settings plays a significant role in combating childhood obesity.

We are offering every school £200 to support healthy living activities for this week.

Activities should relate to promoting healthy eating, emotional health and/or physical activity. For ideas and support with activities go to www.assp.org.uk and search under agencies.

In order to receive the money, you need to submit the [form](#) to Deirdre Barry, agencies supporting schools manager, either by email or fax by **Friday February 15 2008**.

Fax 020 7525 5025 Email deirdre.barry@southwark.gov.uk

We have a team of roving reporters – young people and children's service officers, who will be available to visit your school, interviewing young people on their chosen activity. If you would like the roving reporters to come to your school and publicise your healthy living work, then please state this on the attached form.

We hope that you will participate in this Healthy Living Week and look forward to your contributions. If you want more information, please contact a member of the PSHE and healthy schools team.

Contact Clare Smith, PSHE and healthy schools adviser
Email clare.smith2@southwark.gov.uk

One line healthy schools materials folder (ALL)

The national healthy schools team is providing each state school with a free support materials folder. All primary and secondary schools in Southwark will receive their folder over the next few weeks.

The folder is a lever-arch type and contains a suite of guidance booklets about the programme designed to help schools and governors achieve National Healthy School Status or continue to develop once they have status. The folder is a working tool: it is divided into sections and can hold additional materials sourced, used or produced by the school, acting as a healthy schools portfolio and resource. Each support materials folder currently contains the following guidance:

- Introduction to Healthy Schools
- Achieving National Healthy School Status
- Quality assurance
- Whole school approach
- Physical activity (two sets of guidance)
- Quick guide to media

Further guidance on Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Healthy Eating, Working with Parents/Carers and Outcomes Guidance will be distributed to schools.

Contact Clare Smith, PSHE and healthy schools adviser on 07944 474292.
Email Clare.smith2@southwark.gov.uk

Courses, training and conferences

Childhood obesity conference

When: Thursday February 28 2008

Time: 9am to 2pm

Venue: Business Learning Centre, Cator Street

Aims: This is a conference to review the childhood obesity priority in relation to school and community based activities on healthy eating and physical activity.

Objective: Practitioners will be able to identify and implement effective delivery methods to reduce childhood obesity levels.

The conference will include

- Information on current childhood obesity issues/strategies nationally and within the borough
- Opportunities to review good practice in healthy eating and physical activity curriculum
- Playground activities for all
- How to prepare for the implementation of nutritional standards (schools)
- Support on involving pupils and parents/carers in addressing childhood obesity

Priorities addressed

- Be Healthy.
- Enjoy and achieve
- Economic Wellbeing
- More for children and young people to do
- Safer Streets
- Reducing obesity
- Be safe
- Positive participation
- Raising attainment

Target audience

Health professionals and practitioners working with schools or in education based settings school staff and headteachers.

Please register your interest by February 19 by contacting:

Tejal Lovelock, healthy schools, health improvement coordinator on 020 7525 0275

Email tejal.lovelock@southwarkpct.nhs.uk

Islam Expo

IslamExpo is a non-profit organisation based in the United Kingdom dedicated to enhancing understanding of Islam in Britain and building bridges between the Muslim world and the West.

The event is made up of a mix of exhibitions, demonstrations, seminars, lectures, theatre and film shows. There is also the option to participate in a variety of workshops specifically designed with school pupils in mind.

IslamExpo provides schools with an opportunity to discover some of Islam's greatest but hidden treasures. IslamExpo is taking place from **July 11 to 14 2008** at Olympia, London.

There will be a minimal entrance charge of £2 per pupil.

Each pupil can:

- access the various school adapted exhibitions
- view the demonstrations
- listen to lectures/seminars
- participate in games and receive an educational gift pack including a workbook and stationary.

IslamExpo is a platform for schools nationwide to purchase essential resources about Islam such as CDs, books, artefacts, and much more.

For more information contact on Naweeda Ahmad on 0845 108 5101

Email: schools@islamexpo.com

Website: www.islamexpo.com

Schools administrators conference

Come to the summer school administrators conference.

When: April 30 2008

Where: Millwall, Zampa Road, SE16 3LN

Time: 9am to 4.45pm

For more details contact Linda Walden on 020 7525 5081

Minutes and correspondence

Education management team minutes

Southwark Council children's services [education management team meeting minutes](#), December 12 2007.

Letters and documents

Letters and other documents for staff in education settings from the local authority are all available on the Southwark Council website. Please check the correspondence page regularly for new mail. We will send you a list of all new correspondence every Friday, either here within Learning Matters, or by email to school headteachers on the weeks when Learning Matters is not published.

February 8 2008

For all staff, [lesbian, gay, bisexual and transpeople \(LGBT\) History month letter](#) (Word 329KB) and [application form](#) (Word 302KB), February 7.

February 1 2008

For all staff, [EMA draft strategic plan](#) (Word 360KB) and [EMA consultation questionnaire](#) (Word 303KB).

For headteachers, [Healthy living letter](#) (Word 334KB) and [Healthy living returns form](#) (Word 303KB).

Next edition of Learning Matters

Learning Matters is distributed fortnightly on a Friday.

Please ensure copy is received by 5pm on the copy deadline date to ensure inclusion.

Copy deadline	Distribution
February 26 2008	February 29 2008
March 11 2008	February 14 2008

We would like to hear news and information from you. If you want to share good practice, have news and information or want to celebrate achievement, please use let us know.

Email us at **childrens.services@southwark.gov.uk**

Your feedback, suggestions and any comments are always welcome.