

Learning Matters

News and information for staff in educational settings

Summer term – May 23 2008

Welcome from Terry Parkin

Feature

- Diploma for 14 to 19 year olds

Articles which cover 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

KS4: For key stage 4 staff

ALL: For staff across all stages

All staff

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- 'Whatever' magazine (ALL)
- New head teacher at Sacred Heart Secondary School: correction (ALL)
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- National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations (ALL)
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Welcome from Terry Parkin

First, a tremendous thank you to colleagues for their hard work this term. We started off with the JAR and ended with SATs and GCSEs and so it must have seemed quite relentless for most of you.

It was also our first experience of the 'double Easter holiday' followed closely by May Day. At least Whitsun feels a bit more like a proper holiday!

We believe the JAR will be very positive about the work of our schools and certainly predictions of significant improvements in outcomes have been received from many of you.

Our new organisational arrangements are beginning to bite too. Senior officers are increasingly being invited into schools to work alongside heads and other senior staff on reviews, helping schools validate the systems underpinning the SEF. Feedback on the work of our consultants suggests they are of the highest quality and have had a genuine impact where they have worked.

We will continue these improvements next half term with a focus on ensuring we offer you a better balance of centrally funded support alongside work you can buy-in. We will build capacity further at the centre by inviting school leaders to work alongside us to ensure we can reflect the very best practice locally.

We have many outstanding schools in the borough. Our intention in the coming year is to continue to work alongside you to increase this number term by term. Headteachers working on our Primary Capital Programme have set-us the goal of ensuring every Southwark school is an outstanding school, a challenge, I think, worth rising to.

When you return from the break, the primary capital programme will be approaching submission stage, and the Audit Commission questionnaire will, once again, be in school. We had around two-thirds of our schools complete it last year. Somehow, Islington has over 95%: this should be our target for this summer. Last year, you reported that around three quarters of our services had improved, but still scored us around satisfactory for most. The range nationally is very narrow and so we still came out in the bottom quartile nationally for many of our functions. I hope you feel we are now better than that. Where this is not the case, let me know and I will ensure we increasingly meet and hopefully exceed your expectations of support from the centre.

Finally, thank you again for your support over the last half term and I hope you have a very enjoyable break.

Regards

Terry Parkin, deputy director children's services, education

Diploma for 14 to 19 year olds

Southwark has been given the go-ahead to introduce five diplomas over the next three years. The diplomas are:

- Creative and media (September 2008)
- Engineering (September 2008)
- Business admin and finance (September 2009)
- Information Technology (September 2009)
- Hospitality and catering (September 2010)

The 14 to 19 partnership has set up mini-consortia to facilitate the delivery of these diplomas. The consortia are partnerships between schools, further and higher education, employers and training providers. They aim to offer students a real working environment by using the vast amount of industry facilities we have in our local area. At the present time only schools which are part of these consortia have been approved by the Government's gateway process. This is unlikely to change before the diploma becomes a national entitlement to all young people from 2013. All students do, however, have access to the diploma by enrolling at Southwark College or one of the other providers of principal learning.

By 2013 diplomas will be offered in all of the fourteen skills sectors as well as science, languages and humanities. The content of these courses is being developed by employers and educational professionals. The aim is to provide specific skills for young people to succeed in the future. A list of these sector areas can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

Diplomas will be available for the full ability range. They will give young people new options alongside other qualifications like GCSEs, A Levels and apprenticeships, and will help students to progress towards skilled jobs, universities or further education.

As a partnership we now need to plan a strategy for the introduction of the remaining 12 diplomas in the period up until 2013. If you are interested in becoming involved in the process please contact the 14 to 19 team as below.

For more information contact the 14 to19 team on 020 7525 5162 or email 1419partnership@southwark.gov.uk

All staff

Measles outbreak in south east London (ALL)

We wrote to you in March to alert you to increasing numbers of suspected and confirmed cases of measles in nurseries, primary and secondary schools. In the last week there have been 18 cases of measles notified in Southwark and the Health Protection Agency has now declared a measles outbreak in the borough.

We are sure you are aware measles is easily prevented by the vaccine MMR and all children aged over 5 years should have received this. Unfortunately many children have not had this and are therefore susceptible to infection. We would be very grateful for your help in raising awareness amongst parents of children at your school. On Wednesday May 21 we emailed a [letter](#) to all head teachers with a [letter](#) and measles [factsheet](#) to cascade to all parents. If your school or nursery has a website you might also wish to place it there.

Measles is an infection that is very easily spread in non immune individuals and we are seeing outbreaks within educational settings. It is potentially a very serious disease and we have seen several children recently admitted to hospital locally who have been very ill with it.

Please do not hesitate to contact Southwark public health team if we can be of any further help on 020 7525 0280 or 020 7525 0318.

School Support Network (ALL)

School Support Network holds a meeting once a term for all adults working with children, young people and their families in Southwark who have an interest in their emotional, behavioural and social lives.

The next network workshop on Wednesday June 11 will focus on sexuality and inclusion and consider the issues of young people and sexual orientation. The session takes place at Southwark Park Primary School, Galleywall Road, SE16 3PB from 9.30am to 12 noon. Some parking is available near the school. If you would like to attend you do not need to book in advance.

For more information call Marcia Green (CAHMs) on 020 3228 7100 or Juliet Boas and Chris Bell (BASS) on 020 7525 2897.

'Whatever' magazine

Children and young people have told us that there's not enough to do in Southwark. In response we have created an exciting marketing and information initiative, based around a website and magazine that will reach the widest possible audience of young people.

You may have already seen literature about the magazine Whatever and even seen the website itself: www.whtvr.org. From our website statistics we know that lots of young people are accessing the site to find things to do in their spare time and get involved with the community.

In two weeks we will be launching the Whatever magazine for young people. A group of young people aged 13 to 19, from across the borough, have been working together to produce the first edition. It covers a range of issues including the council's music project, exam stress, getting a summer job and has events and activities listings.

Whatever will be distributed widely around the borough, through schools, youth clubs, libraries and other places where young people go. The young editorial board are keen to get involved in the distribution and would like to follow the London Paper or London Lite by handing the magazines out at schools that they attend. Not all schools have a young person involved with the magazine and in these instances I would like to recruit someone from your school who would be able to help with distribution.

We would like your help in assisting us to get the magazine as widely circulated as possible. My colleague Elissa Muller will be telephoning you in due course to discuss how we can take this forward.

For more information call Karl Murray, head of services for young people on 020 7525 1530

New head teacher at Sacred Heart Secondary School: Correction (ALL)

We recently announced the appointment of a new head teacher at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Secondary School. Please note the new head teacher is named Serge Cefai. Please accept our apologies for this mistake.

Human rights award programme (ALL)

The Impetus Awards recognise creative and innovative work by young people who use ethical values and human rights to respond to challenging, contemporary, challenging issues in our society.

Projects do not have to be highly polished pieces of work. Submissions can be a work in progress. Previous works that achieved Impetus Awards include projects that tackle racism and bullying, fair trade community events and fundraising activities.

To achieve an award the young people must fill in an application form (available to download from the website below). All applications are then assessed and a selection of groups from across the UK is picked to take part in the two day celebration event held in London. The 2008 celebration includes a meal out at Pizza Express, participation in team building workshops, a trip to Madame Tussauds and a showcase on the second day where the young people share their work with each other and an audience.

You may already be carrying out work in this area that is eligible for an award or may be interested in starting up something new. If so, please contact the Impetus team which is able to run workshops introducing human rights and assist in project planning.

All the information you need, including the submission form, is available from the Impetus website: www.impetusawards.org.uk. The deadline for submissions is May 31 2008.

For more information visit the website above or contact Lorna Robins, youth programme officer, Institute for Global Ethics on 020 7405 5709 or email lrobins@globalethics.org.uk.

National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations (ALL)

Research has shown that parental involvement has a significant impact on a child's achievement and attainment at school. Schools and parents have vital roles to play in helping children to learn. However, achievement is even greater when parents and teachers work together effectively. Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) are a popular way for parents to get involved with their child's school.

A successful PTA provides parents and teachers with the opportunity to exchange views, work together and to develop mutual trust and confidence. The National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations (NCPTA), an independent charity, supports this success and provides guidance to parents and teachers who are interested in starting a PTA.

Visit www.ncpta.org.uk to find out more or contact Yvonne Treves, regional adviser, NCPTA, on 01992 444177 or yvonne.treves@ncpta.org.uk

Book Bands for Guided Reading (4th Edition October 2007) (EYF/KS1)

A handbook to support Foundation and Key Stage 1 Teachers
Baker, Bickler and Bodman

Book Bands for Guided Reading is the authoritative publication in the UK enabling schools to create, audit and supplement a high quality library of sets of books for use with groups of Foundation and Key Stage 1 children. It provides a rationale for including titles from a range of different publishers in a common gradient of challenges, and relates this gradient to the progression in phonics outlined in Letters and Sounds (Primary National Strategy 2007).

New to this edition:

- Evaluation of the main series of books designed for use in Foundation and Key Stage 1 Guided Reading currently available in the UK
- Eleven updated and expanded colour-banded listings give detail of more than 3,500 suitable texts
- Pink A and Pink B lists offer added support to Foundation Stage teachers
- Discussion of non-fiction and the text features that make particular books worth a lesson.

The book costs £25.00. ISBN: 978-0-85473-787-1

Activities for pupils

Schools Environment and Dance Celebration Event 2008 (ALL)

Schools Environment and Dance Celebration Event 2008 takes place Friday July 11 2008 from 9.30am to 2.30pm in Southwark Park. Activities will include the Schools Environmental Celebration Event, Southwark Big Dance Festival, Community Games activities, art and reading.

- Performances, workshops, demonstrations and tasting, 10am to 2.30pm
- Nominate your school for an environmental Oscar – Green Oscars at 10.30am
- Enter other competitions throughout the day
- Southwark Schools Dance Festival 11am to 12.30pm, 1pm to 2.30pm
- Bring you own lunch – prize for the most sustainable packed lunch!
- The event is free for every school in Southwark

A generic booking form for the whole event will be sent to all schools expressing an interest. For more information about the Dance Festival contact Philippa Beagley on 07790 698053 or email philippa.beagley@southwark.gov.uk. For more information about the Environmental Celebration contact the Sustainable Services Team on 020 7525 2397 or email sustainable.services@southwark.gov.uk.

Go-givers Make a Difference Challenge (KS2/3)

This initiative aims to provide children with the opportunity and means to construct a case in support of a particular cause (eg homelessness), or section of society. The plan will be developed through direct involvement with people associated with the cause (eg Shelter). A representative group of children will be expected to share their achievements using a range of media.

For more information visit www.gogivers.org or call Ruth Le Breton on 020 7566 4130.

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.

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
Half term	
June 3 2008	June 6 2008
June 17 2008	June 20 2008
July 15 2008	July 18 2008
Summer break	

We would like to hear your news, information, good practice and achievements or any thoughts on this issue.

Please let us know by emailing childrens.services@southwark.gov.uk