

SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION
AND LIBRARY BOARD



education

NEWS

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(Photo: Ulster Star)

The Most Rev Patrick Walsh, Bishop of Down and Connor, carried out the Official Opening on 15 December of the new Christ the Redeemer Primary School at Lagmore, Dunmurry, built at a cost of £4.5m.



Glenlola Collegiate's new £9m school was officially opened by HRH the Duke of York on Wednesday 8 October. Accompanying him on a tour of the school are Head Girl Alyson Meeke and Headmaster Richard Finlay.



(Photo: Ulster Star)

Attending Hilden Integrated Primary School's 90th anniversary celebrations were former teacher Roy Mateer, past pupil and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors Terry Conway, Harold Guest, former Principal, and current Principal Eleanor Brennan.



Stephen Lewis is presented with a Certificate by Board Vice-Chairman Roy McFerran to recognise his 7 years full attendance at Bangor Central Primary School and 5 years full attendance at Bangor Academy and Sixth Form College. Included is Stephen's mother Donna.



(Photo: Ulster Star)

Board Chairman Councillor Robert Gibson (right) marks the commencement of building work on a new £4.15m school to replace the existing Lisburn and Newport Primary Schools – ably assisted by the Mayor of Lisburn Councillor Billy Bell and Alderman Ivan Davis, Chairman of the Lisburn City Council Leisure Services Committee.



Helping to launch the Belfast Telegraph's Building for the Future initiative at BT Riverside Tower in Belfast are budding reporters James and Ellie, P2 Pupils of Lambeg Primary School. Also included are SEELB Early Years Adviser Anne McDermott, Belfast Telegraph Marketing Director Richard McClean and Conor Kieran of BT.



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foreword

Since the last edition of *Education News*, there have been sad bereavements within the Board and school communities. The Board was also shocked by the sudden death of Tom Nolan OBE, former Chief Executive, who was a highly esteemed and charismatic leader of the Board.

The Board continues to strive towards improvement and has been greatly encouraged by the achievement of the silver award in the Steps to Excellence Award which is based on the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Business Excellence Model. This is a well deserved acknowledgement of the quality of staff we have within the Board.

The installation of the People's Network in Branch Libraries has proved to be an outstanding success and each of the libraries has experienced a great demand for internet access. The availability of these facilities has brought many new users into our libraries.

The Board continues to develop relationships and partnerships with other agencies, in health, social services, juvenile justice, probationary service, police, local councils and voluntary agencies. This is helping to provide "joined up" services for young people and the communities which we serve.

Proposed changes to the structures of Post Primary Education announced by the Minister of Education, Jane Kennedy, will provide challenges for schools, the Board, parents and communities. Let's hope that the outcomes will build on the strengths of our present system and extend the opportunities for all our pupils to have high quality curriculum pathways to choose from.

The Review of Public Service Administration has created uncertainty for many staff employed in the public service. At a recent conference, Sir John Shortridge, Permanent Secretary to the Welsh Assembly said "Reorganisation or Restructuring absorbs energy and does not bring improvement."

Let's hope that whatever emerges from the review preserves what is currently good practice and further enhances the quality of public services provided for all our people.

Mr Jackie Fitzsimons
Chief Executive



**SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION
AND LIBRARY BOARD**

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Obituary - Tom Nolan OBE

Tom Nolan died suddenly on 27 September 2003. He had been Chief Executive for 13 of the 20 years he served with the Board until his retirement in December 1996.



He had worked for 39 years in the education service. His experience spanned all sectors; in primary, secondary and grammar schools, in initial teacher training, in universities and in continuing education for the Workers Education Association. Tom provided a lead and inspiration to all who came in contact with his teaching and ideals.

For twenty years, as an extremely successful administrator within the South Eastern Education and Library Board, he had the opportunity to demonstrate his total commitment to raising standards and to cross-community relationships through his unparalleled ability to achieve joint work and excellent cooperation amongst his Board members and officers, and also schools and colleges from all cultural traditions. As Chief Executive of the Board from 1983 until his retirement in 1996 he worked tirelessly, day and night, and through very difficult times in the history of Northern Ireland, to promote and maintain cross-community harmony and equity for all the people of his area. That he was a greatly loved and respected leader for the united educational community of the South Eastern area is testimony to the tireless and unstinting support

he so selflessly gave.

He was also unsparing of his time in the development of teacher education and the harmonisation of relations in the Queen's University, Belfast, through his voluntary work with the Students Union and staff of the University. His outstanding voluntary work for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, both within Northern Ireland and nationally, was on a par with his contribution to the Society of Education Officers of which he became UK President. A very selective list of his educational involvement would include his contribution to the Review of Initial Teacher Training, to the Northern Ireland Council on the Curriculum, to the Curriculum Awards National Assessment Panel, to the Social Services Management Committee, to the Association of Chief Executives of Education and Library Boards, to the Senate and associated committees of the Queen's University, Belfast, to the development of European and International Education and to the Primary Education Standing Committee. More than this, however, he held the principle of the child at the centre of all endeavour and managed this in a true spirit of friendship across the entire community. He was an outstanding educationist and leader and was awarded the OBE for services to Education in 1990.

He was held in great esteem by all who knew him and his death was received with great sadness. He had given distinguished and dedicated service and was much admired and respected. Tom is survived by his wife Berga, their sons Tommy and Connal and daughter Fran to whom deepest sympathy is extended.

New Europe - New Faces

A special programme of events is to be organised by the European Commission Office in Northern Ireland with assistance from partners from the business, government and education sectors to mark the historic enlargement of the European Union.

On 1 May, ten countries - Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia - will join the European Union. The enlargement will be the biggest in the history of the EU. The new countries will add 75 million people, taking total EU population for 25 countries to over 450 million people.

Events are being held across Europe to welcome the new countries. In Northern Ireland, the New Europe - New faces programme runs from 25 April to 5 May. The showpiece will be on the New Europe - New Faces Exhibition on 26-27 April at St George's Market, Belfast, where schools and the public will be able to experience the sights and sounds of the 10 European countries, try their local foods and learn more about their history and culture. Each of the five Education and Library Boards will have a stand to highlight their work in promoting European Awareness in schools and colleges.

Other events include a schools debate held at Stormont, a major seminar on business opportunities in the new Europe, a photographic exhibition at the Waterfront Hall while Queens Film Theatre will be screening a programme of films from the New Europe until 4 May. Can you match the ten new accession countries to their flags?



Formula One Challenge (Cover Feature)

There was no Michael Schumacher, no chequered flag or spraying of champagne from the winner's podium but there was still plenty of excitement for some young motor racing fans.

The event was the regional final of the *F1 in Schools Challenge* held once again in the Odyssey Arena in which six schools from the Board's area took part. Bangor Grammar, Dunmurry High, Forthill College, Lagan College, Lisnasharragh High and Wallace High competed with teams from the other Board areas.

This unique educational experience required each participating team (Key Stage 3, 4 or 5) to design on computer to a set of strict specifications a 'scaled-down' Formula 1 car body shape and then to test it. These shapes were then manufactured at each Board's Technology Unit or at a school

which owned a suitable CNC Routing Machine.

After final assembly these gas propelled F1 models were raced on a track set up at the Odyssey Arena. All of our participating schools put great effort into their designs presenting their ideas to a panel of 'experts' in a very professional manner - which resulted in Forthill



Fort Hill Integrated College Team

College and Wallace High gaining overall third places in KS3 and KS5 respectively.

It is hoped that even more teams will come forward from the Board's area for this year's regional final with perhaps some of them going on to the UK final in London.

Further information: Roy Fleming at the Technology and Design Unit, Board HQ



Wallace High School Team

Running for Cross Country Glory

This year's South Eastern Primary Schools Cross Country Final took place on Monday 29 March on a perfect Spring day at the Lough Moss Leisure Centre, Carryduff.

Over 250 children, representing 26 primary schools across the South East Area, stepped up to the mark and ran for glory in this popular event. In total over 2000 pupils had participated in the regional heats held at Council venues in Ards, Lisburn, North Down, Castlereagh

and Down. The girls' race was a closely run event which was eventually won by Joanne Mills of All Children's Integrated Primary School, Newcastle while the boys' race was won by Josh Lowry of Bangor Central Primary School in an event which was dominated by pupils from the North Down Area. Councillor William Ward, Chairman of the Board's Education Committee, presented the prizes.

The top 4 girls' and boys' teams will represent the South East Area at the

Golden Cow Youth Games to be held in May.

Results - Girls' Teams: 1st All Children's Integrated PS, Newcastle, 2nd Hillsborough PS, 3rd Harmony Hill PS, Lisburn, 4th Convent of Mercy PS, Downpatrick.

Results - Boys' Teams: 1st Bangor Central Integrated PS, 2nd Kilmaine PS, Bangor, 3rd Ballyholme PS, Bangor, 4th Hillsborough PS.



Promoting Boys' Literacy in Clough Primary School - Mrs Margaret Wilson, Principal

It all really began when staff development through INSET highlighted, in particular, issues pertaining to Boys' Literacy. To address these, staff began to develop strategies and make effective changes to their classroom practice and classroom management.



- in their class libraries
- Interest value non-fiction books were selected for the school library
 - Senior boys were encouraged to become story writers for younger pupils

At a Parents' Literacy Workshop, parents were encouraged to reflect on their role at home. A book entitled "Read me Another, Dad" (A Save the Children publication ISBN 1 899120 998) was given to all KS1 (Key Stage 1) families.

The role of parents and Board of Governors and the wider community has been developed to include 'Granny Time' and 'Grandpa Time' where older members of the community come to read to groups of children in an informal library setting and also 'Storysacks' made by parents. Some parents attended a training session on the use of Storysacks. This has further developed into 'Library Mums' who visit school weekly and work with small

groups to help children research topic work at KS2 and read with groups at KS1. More specifically in school, work with small groups of boys in particular, has proved effective. Children are withdrawn from class 3-4 times weekly for a focused half hour literacy lesson presented in a short/snappy way, moving from one key area to another and ending with relaxation to music.

We are currently piloting this literacy lesson plan, which takes the main principles of *Reading Recovery* but adopts them for small groups. The lesson plan revisits known skills and learning and builds on this for development. The short and snappy structure develops listening skills and is repetitive providing security and reinforcement for the child. This is being trialled with groups of boys from KS1 and KS2. Constant assessment by observation, pupils' reflections and parent questionnaires are providing qualitative data to support the quantitative data obtained through Key Stage testing and standardised tests.

Examples of these would be:

- Consideration of seating in classroom
- Structure of lessons changing to be more 'sharp and snappy'
- Consideration of marking of pupils' work for content e.g so that long neat pieces of prose would not be considered more favourably than a shorter more factual piece of work
- Teachers chose more factual books

Ça va bien! Henry Cowan, Principal of Towerview Primary School, Bangor

<Bonjour mes enfants. Aujourd'hui nous allons commencer à parler en français. Alors, mon petit, comment tu t'appelles, s'il te plaît?>

The P1 child looks intently into the face of the inquisitor as if to say, "What's he asking me that for?" and replies, <Je m'appelle Joe>. Not something we are generally used to in our primary schools, though some of us have struggled with our "Get by in French" audio tapes and relied on distant secondary school memories to attempt a little foreign language with our pupils. And how they revelled in it, wrapping their tongues around those strange sounding words and the sense of achievement despite the dubious pronunciation! Were we doing more harm than good?!



How different has been the enjoyable experience for our pupils in years one and five over the past 18 months thanks to the French Language Initiative. Despite the short sighted plans of the government to scale down the training of primary French teachers, CCEA has now decided that perhaps there is value in the introduction of a foreign language at primary level and is actively consulting teachers.

The children and teachers in six primary schools in the North Down area have had the excellent support of Mme Christelle Bernard-Guterman in introducing French vocabulary and conversation on a regular basis. This has been a most useful addition to our curriculum and has enriched the experiences of the children and teachers involved. The staff have all been

involved in training to help boost their confidence in handling a language which, for many, was most definitely "foreign". The training sessions with Christelle were full of practical learning experiences and fun for all. The children eagerly awaited Christelle's weekly visit for their session of French – learning through song and games.

Thanks to the *Dissemination of Good Practice Initiative*, this pilot programme is continuing this year into years two and six, with years one and five teachers repeating the programme devised by Christelle last year.

Christelle has returned to her school, but we are fortunate in having a new support teacher in the form of Donnie Walkingshaw, "qui parle le français très bien"!

Harmony on The Hill!

Harry Greer, Principal of Harmony Hill Primary School

Happy children learn better, happy teachers teach better and happy principals sleep better!



As a pilot school for the Personal Development strand of the new curriculum proposals we have learned a great deal. Pastoral care is not just about being nice, about being caring. It is really about developing people. It is also about the values you hold and display in your school. It needs to be planned for.

An audit matching current practice against the proposals resulted in the usual panic but a realisation that much is already evident, albeit more incidental than planned!

A Pastoral Team with a teacher from each year group asked:

What is it like to be a:

- **Child in our school?**
- **Teacher in our school?**
- **Parent in our school?**
- **What is valued in our school?**
- **What values and personal qualities are we trying to develop in the children?**

Playground markings, play boxes, after school sports, circle time to explore feelings, thought boxes, poet and composer in residence, visiting musical stars, ICT Suite, expanded local community relations programme - children sorted.

New telephone system, increased requisition money, focused meetings, staffroom whiteboard, individual interviews with the Principal, European links with Venice and Madrid - a happy, exhausted staff!

Honest meetings, away from school, brought raised key issues including better communication, positive behaviour, staff development needs and thought given to children's real developmental needs.

CCEA's resources and sample lessons will result from the pilot but every school's starting point and distinctive character will be different. The curriculum proposals are a good reference point but a centrally produced scheme is not appropriate. Our interpretation of the proposals is based on principles of Opportunity, Respect and Sound Values for EVERYONE in the school community. Planning for these principles should be clearly evident. I am delighted that the development of people is now to be a central part of our curriculum. It's time we really began to focus on educating well rounded, compassionate and positive young people to take their place in our society. As for the Principal sleeping better...

Not all Learning Happens at School

On Saturday 11th October the Board organised a family fun day in Downpatrick as part of *Family Learning Weekend*. Downpatrick Library and the St Patrick Centre threw open their doors to hundreds of families eager to participate in the day's activities. While some children explored the website gridclub.com with parents and also grandparents in the library, other families were busy in the St Patrick Centre creating an excellent community mosaic with artist Grainne Kieilty. *Family Learning Weekend* is a national campaign, which



raises awareness of the importance and scope of family learning and prompts participants to positively question and re-evaluate their own attitude to learning.

Each year thousands of organisations around the UK offer a special event to enable families to experience the excitement of learning and discovering together.

Families are not only our first and most important teachers, they also teach the most valuable things in life. Learning with other family members leads a child to develop positive attitudes to all

aspects of education and should be an everyday part of family life. The average four year old can ask up to 400 'why' questions a day, something which can leave you feeling exhausted but remember that if you can inspire your child with confidence it will be more valuable than knowing all the answers!



Ardmore House Special School

School Principal, William Dale, outlines some of the challenges.



Opened in 1967, Ardmore House in Saul Street, Downpatrick, is an interdenominational, special school catering for 28 post-primary aged young people from all over the Board's area who are experiencing emotional or behavioural difficulties. Unfortunately the majority of these pupils will be with us long term and only a small minority manage to return to their mainstream school or get a 'fresh start' in another school.

The staff at Ardmore also offer an Outreach Service to all post-primary schools within the Board and currently we have just over 250 referrals from 25 different schools.

The Outreach Service concentrates on individual pupils in schools whereas the Behaviour Support Team deal with whole school issues around positive discipline and behaviour.

Over the last three years there has been a significant change in the difficulties and challenges presented by the young people in our care. Often we have pupils with dual statements of need – Moderate Learning Difficulties and Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties. Some of the young people arrive with us with no experience of attending a post-primary school.

These are some of the challenges which staff are taking on board and we are meeting the specific and diverse needs of our pupils with imaginative innovation in a whole range of areas for which we have been complimented by the

Department of Education in our most recent inspection.

Innovations include Breakfast Club, OILS computerised learning system, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Environmental Projects, Pupil Forum, AQA accreditation, FE Link, School Newspaper, Traffic Education and visits from artists. These run alongside our Positive Discipline Policy which rewards good choices and good behaviour.

In conclusion the School Development Plan focuses our drive to help socialise, develop self-esteem, nurture self-confidence and a sense of achievement with all the young people attending the school.

We hope to demonstrate to them and their parents that education is of value and is there to be sampled and enjoyed.

New Beginnings for Clifton Special School

After 10 long years in the planning, the pupils and staff of Clifton Special School are overjoyed to be moving into a new purpose-built school building, located at Ballykillaire, Bangor.

Clifton Special School transferred to the South Eastern Education and Library Board from the Eastern Health and Social Services Board in April 1987. Over the years the number of children attending the school increased significantly and additional mobile accommodation was added incrementally, resulting in a loss of valuable play and car parking space in an already cramped and steeply sloping site.

The new school, which has been built at a cost of £3.5 million, will open its doors for the first time to staff and pupils on 26th April. The state of the art accommodation includes 15 spacious classrooms,

some of which are equipped as specialist rooms for Home Economics, Art, Music and Science, a large gymnasium, therapy rooms, interview/quiet rooms, a soft play room and a sensory room as well as

administrative areas and much needed outside play space.

A very welcome addition is the hydrotherapy pool, partly financed by parents and charitable donations.



Safehands in Safeways

Colm Davis, Principal of Tor Bank Special School, Dundonald, describes an innovative partnership project.

Ever been confused when shopping and can't find what you're looking for! Frustrated you get impatient and grab the next best thing to get out of the shop! Often you just leave when you can't find a member of staff to help you. If like me you suffer these shopping symptoms, put yourself in the shoes of a young person with Severe Learning Difficulties who has limited communication skills. Unlike people with auditory difficulties, the communication needs of such pupils have been neglected by the private and retail sector who expect our pupils to be able to articulate their needs and negotiate their way around a store without additional prompts or clues.

Let's not forget the fact that we need written prompts to help overcome our frustrations - which we use effortlessly without thinking - menus, written signs etc. Unfortunately



unlike ourselves, however, many of the people who have severe disabilities require visual prompts to be able to function more independently as shoppers. They also require assistance from staff who have the knowledge and skills to be able to really communicate with them effectively.

Thanks to our successful bid for funding from DWP Disability Unit Grant Schemes for £10,000, Tor Bank has formed a partnership with 'Safeways' supermarket (Dundonald) and the Speech and Language Therapy Department (South and East Trust) to develop a range of specially adapted resources aimed at making communication with Safeways store more effective for our pupils. Staff in Safeways are currently being trained in the use of the Makaton System of Communication so that they will be able to support our pupils while shopping. In the future, it is anticipated that menus, store plans and written signs will be accompanied by the visual pictographs used within the Makaton system to eliminate feelings of confusion which are often

experienced by our pupils when shopping.

This project has given staff at Tor Bank an opportunity to develop and strengthen partnerships between the education sector, the private sector and health and social services sector. It is anticipated that this partnership will eventually lead to a more focused and co-ordinated understanding of the inclusion needs of people with severe learning disabilities in our community.

We also hope that this initiative will be extended beyond Safeways at Dundonald to local and national levels in the near future.



Five Gold Medals for Longstone Pupil

Matthew Bell, a Year 10 pupil at Longstone School in Dundonald, recently took part in the Junior National Swimming Championships organised by *Disability Sport England* at Sheffield on 6 and 7 March.

Matthew Swam exceptionally well and won 5 Gold Medals in the following events;

50m Breast Stroke [44.26 secs]
100m Breast Stroke [1:41.36 secs]
100m Freestyle [1:12.72 secs]
50m Freestyle [33.42 secs]
50m Backstroke [40.20 secs]

He captured the National Record in the 50m Breast Stroke event when he

took a full three seconds off the old record. Everyone at Longstone School is very proud of Matthew and

his fantastic achievement - and looks forward to seeing him in the next Olympics!



From Left to Right: Mr J. Starrs (PE Teacher), Matthew Bell & Mr T. Howard (Principal)

Laurelhill Sports Zone

The College pupils have also benefited from the excellent sporting facilities. There are now four girls and six boys hockey teams. For the first time a College First Eleven has been established.

This gave the pupils in Sixth Form the opportunity to participate in hockey at a high standard and enjoy the extra curricular experience. These advantages are not confined to Laurelhill as two local Grammar Schools also have

exclusive use of the Sports Zone to play and coach hockey during two afternoons per week. They also play their league matches at the Sports Zone, on a Saturday morning.

The College's aim for this facility is to increase the quality of sporting opportunities for all within the Lisburn area and, in doing so, to bridge the gap between school activities, after school activities and club development.

Dessie Curry - Head of PE



Exploring Our Built Heritage

The Ulster Architectural Heritage Society has devised an Education Pack for Key Stage 2, with grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other small funders. Entitled *Looking Back, Moving Forward*, it was launched by the UTV Environment Correspondent, Brian Black.



The initial instalment relates to *Homes through Time* and sections on schools, churches and industrial buildings will follow. The pack comprises background information for teachers guiding them through styles and issues with photocopiable worksheets for children. The built heritage represents a wonderful cross-curricular resource and the pack has

local references that could be used to support a local study project. The key aim is to encourage children to become aware of the architectural heritage in their own areas and to think about the quality and sustainability of the environment.

For further information please contact Angela Fitzpatrick, Education Officer, UAHS, at 028 9056 6213.

The 2003 European Youth Parliament

John Allen, Principal of Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock

Little did we think that when we entered the local heat of the European Youth Parliament (N.I.) in the autumn of 2002, that 2003 would be such an unforgettable year – that we would end up in Estonia

at the 44th International Session of the European Youth Parliament in representing the United Kingdom, having won the U.K. National Selection Conference in York in September and previously the Northern Ireland final in Belfast. How does one attempt to summarise



the whole European Youth Parliament experience? As team member Lisa Brown says *“it is just a life changing experience, the opportunity to meet so many different people from across Europe is just unprecedented.”*

Dominic Kealey and Michaela Collins, the accompanying teachers, would echo Lisa's sentiments. The experience was simply incredible - the honour of being chosen to represent the U.K., the opportunity to go to Tallinn, mixing with twenty-three other nationalities, the forging of international friendships, watching the team grow and develop in terms of confidence and maturity and above all,

their emergence as fine young ambassadors and true global citizens. For the students and staff of Our Lady and St. Patrick's the E.Y.P. experience of 2003 will never be forgotten.

People in high places were watching us too as we progressed through the various stages of the 2003 EYP sessions and early in the new year we received an unexpected invitation.

It came from the office of President Mary McAleese congratulating us on our success and inviting our team, their teachers and myself to Áras an Uachtaráin along with the team which represented the Republic of Ireland in Tallinn. Naturally we accepted.



SEELB Hosts Lunch for Retired Principals

A lunch for Principals of SEELB schools who retired during the 2002/2003 school year was held on Friday 28th November. The lunch was held in Board Headquarters,

Grahamsbridge Road, Dundonald and was hosted by the Chairman of the South Eastern Education and Library Board, Councillor Robert Gibson and the Board's Chief Executive, Mr Jackie

Fitzsimons. Also in attendance were members of the SEELB Senior Management Team and staff from the Human Resources Unit.



Back Row (left to right)

Mr Jackie Fitzsimons, Chief Executive, SEELB; Councillor Robert Gibson, Chairman, SEELB; Ms Irene Knox, Chief Administrative Officer, SEELB; Mr Roy McFerran, Vice Chairman, SEELB; Mr Stanton Sloan, Senior Education Officer (Curriculum), SEELB.

Front Row (left to right)

Mr Eamon Haughey, Principal of St Patrick's High School, Lisburn (1998-2003); Mr Stanley Vennard, Principal of Moira Primary School (1975-2003); Mr Alvin Maginnis, Principal of Brooklands Primary School (1985-2003); Mr Gerry Brown, Principal of Tullycarnet Primary School (1984-2003); Mr David Thompson, Principal of Regent House (1995-2003).

Principal Appointments - from 1 June 2003

Primary

23 June 2003
Mrs J A MacArthur
Carrowdore Primary School

1 September 2003
Mr D F McCartney
Brooklands Primary School

1 September 2003
Mrs N Cahill
Good Shepherd Primary School

1 September 2003
Mrs C J R Mairs
Moira Primary School

1 September 2003
Mr A S Jennings
Newtownbreda Primary School

1 September 2003
Mrs S Jackson
Tullycarnet Primary School

1 September 2003
Dr S Quinn
St Patrick's HS, Lisburn

1 March 2004
Mr W Tate
Belvoir Park Primary School

Post-Primary

5 June 2003 (Acting Principal since 1 August 2001)
Miss J Cushnahan
Dundonald High School

18 August 2003
Mr J S W Naismith
Regent House Grammar School

13 October 2003 (Acting Principal since 1 September 2002)
Mrs M Getty
Fort Hill Integrated College

There4Me.com On-Line Counselling

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children



NSPCC provides a number of services to children and young people in Northern Ireland. For the last four years the organisation has teamed up with the South Eastern Board to develop a schools counselling service to 7 schools in North Down.

Then, in November 2003 NSPCC launched a new on-line counselling service.

There4Me is an interactive web site and a new NSPCC service that offers confidential online (child protection) advice and information for young people aged 12-16. The service offers a wealth of static information as well as an e-mail system, an agony aunt page and a live talk facility - a young person can talk 1-2-1 with a trained adviser. The service is aimed at the two thirds of young people who have been abused but do not take advantage of current services to speak about their abuse.

The site is currently available Monday to Friday from 10am to 9pm. It will be further increased to include a service at the weekend in the very near future. By providing a confidential, online, computer-based service to young people, it gives young people a medium to communicate, which they feel is non-threatening and also easily accessible. Because *There4Me* is a distance service, the advisers never have any personal contact with any of the young people who use it. The young people mostly choose to remain anonymous. In this way the service is ideal for giving young people, who disclose abuse, information about how to access appropriate help, or the consequences and processes which

would follow the young person identifying themselves either to *There4Me*, Social Services or the Police.

Advisers have supported young people who have chosen to disclose identifying information, by informing them of who the information will need to be sent to and what is likely to happen. Advisers have also passed information on to an appropriate local agency on the young person's behalf. In these cases advisers have worked closely with Social Services and the Police in line with current legislation, guidance documents and agency policy and procedures.

There4Me however, does not solely provide young people with confidential advice on child protection issues. Advice and information is given across a range of issues which impact on young people today such as bullying, drug/alcohol issues, peer and family relationship problems, emotional problems such as self harm and eating disorders as well as health

and sexual health issues.

The site itself has a number of facilities through which young people can access support and advice. Every young person who accesses the site has the choice as to whether or not to register. If young people choose not to register onto the site they are still able to access various facilities.

There4Me provides a service to young people in which confidentiality plays a pivotal role. It is for this reason that the security aspect of the site is an area that has been given the utmost priority.

At no time when a young person logs on to *There4Me* do they have any direct contact with another young person. A young person can only talk directly to an adviser through 1-2-1 or the Private Inbox facility.

Further information, posters and z-cards can be obtained from NSPCC Divisional Office, Jennymount Court, North Derby Street, Belfast.



Launch of updated GridClub Website

GridClub, the Channel 4 educational website for Key Stage 2 children, has launched the updated version of their website in Northern Ireland. The updated site which is available online at www.gridclub.com, provides pupils and teachers with over 500 highly motivating curriculum-linked games and challenges, together with a comprehensive reference section to support curricular and topic work. The GridClub clubs have also been updated and now provide a unique, fully mediated online communication

environment where children can share educational, cultural and other interests with children of a similar age across the UK and beyond.

To take advantage of this free educational resource, you can register your school online at:

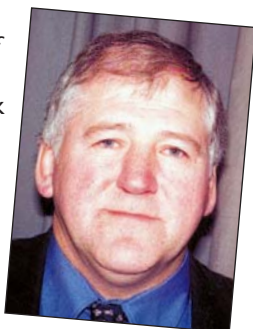
www.gridclub.com/registration/register.html

Our photograph shows Angela Kelly, GridClub Teacher Adviser Northern Ireland along with Tracey Cuthbert from Braniel PS, trying out the new GridClub site.



Dissemination of Good Practice Conference

The 3rd annual *Dissemination of Good Practice Conference* took place on 27 November in the Clandeboye Lodge Hotel, Bangor. Once again the schools presenting at the conference pulled out all the stops and provided a rich variety of choice for the 100 teachers who attended.



The conference day was divided into

five sessions with teachers able to choose from a menu of seminars in each session. Twenty primary schools presented their work at the conference covering a diverse range of excellent projects which included: 'developing animated stories to advance literacy and ICT skills'; 'the development of co-ordinators as subject leaders' and 'developing listening and talking through mind maps'. Collaborative programmes involving groups of primary schools working together, for example, in Art and Design, Literacy Development and French also proved most interesting and successful.

In post-primary the issues presented included: 'Training and Development of Middle Managers'; 'Year 8 Induction' and 'Mentoring for Year 12 Pupils'. A post-16 programme called 'Dreamlab' which involved some 'A' level students from 3 or 4 schools working with industry multi-media professionals was particularly innovative and rewarding for the participants.

Board Adviser D C Gillespie, who organised the Conference, congratulated all those who contributed to a very enjoyable day. He is looking forward to an even bigger and better conference next year.

Celebrating Achievement

Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award for Young People

This popular Award offers recognition to those young people aged 12-18 whose actions have made a real difference to their school and community. So far, over 4000 pupils in over 1200 schools have received the Award for their work as peer mentors, school councillors, fundraisers, young carers, environmental campaigners and more.

The Award means a great deal to the children who receive it and gives a real boost to their efforts. It is also highly valued by schools because it

enables them to give public profile to their outstanding pupils and to encourage other children to become active citizens. It generates significant press coverage for the schools involved and helps to reinforce their caring ethos.

The Award is given to all nominated children who meet the criteria – this is an inclusive, non-competitive scheme. Each school can nominate once in each academic year and all pupils nominated who meet the criteria will receive an award.

Nominations can only be made through schools and colleges and the next deadline for nominations is 18 June 2004.



Contact Details-
Tel No: 020 87099916
www.educationextra.org.uk/diana

Search Is On For Best Kept Schools

The Northern Ireland Amenity Council (NIAC) and new sponsor SuperValu have launched the 2004 Best Kept School Awards, in an effort to find the province's tidiest school by June.

Organisers hope to see hundreds of schools, from across Northern Ireland, vying for the prestigious awards - almost two hundred schools took part last year.

There are three award categories, based on the number of pupils attending a school - small (up to 150



pupils), medium (151-500) and large (over 500). Category winners and runners up will be selected in each of the five Education and Library Board areas, with judges also choosing an overall Best Kept School for Northern Ireland.

Speaking at the launch of the Best Kept School Awards, Doreen Muskett, Chairman of NIAC said;

"The judging this year will focus on the traditional criteria of tidiness and cleanliness, but there is also a greater emphasis than ever before on pupil participation, recycling and

biodiversity projects; such as wildflower meadows and gardening."

Last year's winner was Riverdale Primary which boasts a butterfly garden, four sheep, a wormery, a mini-beast trail and a Christmas-tree farm. It beat off competition from 200 others to win the Shell Best Kept School in Northern Ireland Award. Around 40,000 pupils in primary and post-primary schools put their eco-credentials to the test in the prominent environmental programme.

Judges said that the tidy Lisburn school topped the class thanks to the school environment, its waste management procedures, its lack of litter, and particularly for its practice of bringing the classroom out into the environment.

Music Centre's Christmas Concert at Queen's

The gracious and spacious Whitla Hall at Queen's was well filled on Saturday 13 December for a most enjoyable Christmas Concert. As well as the performers' parents, relatives, friends and other supporters, the audience included a number of invited guests.

The symphonically proportioned Youth Orchestra (leader Lauren Gibb), with many of last year's award-winning membership re-enrolled, showed up well in Mussorgsky's *Night on a Bare Mountain*. The outer movements of the *Masquerade Suite* (Khachaturian) were especially successful, as was Strauss' *Champagne Polka*, with improvised cork 'pops' from the irreplaceable percussion section. Conductor Lawrence Neill was such a genial host that it would be easy to overlook his tasteful arrangements of *Once in Royal David's City* and *Silent Night*, and his extended fanfare introduction to *O come, all ye faithful*. The Percussion Ensemble demonstrated outstanding technique

and musicianship in three most enjoyable arrangements and a long Christmas medley.

As anticipated, Pond Park Primary School Choir, finalists in this year's UTV School Choir of the Year Competition, made a huge impact including positive communication with audience and fresh, attractive repertoire. Their very high overall standard of performance was enhanced even further by deft choreographic touches and by sparkling piano accompaniments. Their young soloist James Anderson delivered the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* with aplomb, and in the choir's inspiring conductor Laura Kerr we also gained at no expense an accomplished soloist for the last two orchestral 'lollipops', Mel Torme's *Christmas Song* and *White Christmas* (Irving Berlin).

Brian Agus
Centre Director

SOUTH EASTERN MUSIC CENTRE

**Showcase Concert
Dates 2004**

Whitla Hall at Queen's, 7.30 pm
Ticket purchase details to be
announced in due course

Saturday 12 June
Senior Concert Band,
Intermediate Orchestra
Bangor and Lisburn Junior Groups

Saturday 19 June
Senior and String Training Orchestras,
Intermediate Concert Band
Castlereagh and Down Junior Groups

The People's Network

Libraries in Northern Ireland and throughout the UK have received a huge boost through the introduction of the People's Network.

For the ordinary library member the People's Network means that their local community library, no matter how large or small can offer free access to email, the Internet, Microsoft Office, scanning of documents and video conferencing. Library users in the South Eastern Education and Library Board have nearly 250 computers at their disposal in the area's 26 libraries.

Library staff have been trained to help users and already the network has



seen the casting aside of many of the barriers that inhibited those with no computer skills from getting the benefits of ICT. Information technology is open to all library users regardless of age, education or income and, through the availability of adaptive technology, regardless

of physical disability. It also means that libraries will be the only place where all members of the public, registering with their local library, have access to a broadband Internet connection free of charge.

The one library membership card entitles the holder to use of any of

the province's 126 public libraries. Books can be borrowed and exchanged at any library and the Northern Ireland libraries website www.ni-libraries.net allows members to request and renew books at the touch of a button. The People's Network is the result of a government vision to connect all public libraries to the Internet. Locally the five education and library boards developed the programme jointly, and have helped fund the programme alongside the New Opportunities Fund, the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, the Executive, the Department of Education and the Gates Foundation. The New Opportunities Fund also provided funding for IT training for library staff. The network was installed and is managed by Amey as part of a PFI project.

Library Skills Pack Updated

The Education Library Service has recently updated the Library Skills Key Stage 1 and 2 booklet in a pack format. This revision takes into account the wide availability of ICT hardware and software in primary school libraries. Teachers have been asking ELS staff for advice on incorporating ICT into their library classes. The pack was prepared by two Education Librarians in conjunction with St Malachy's Primary School, Bangor, where the original programme was developed and piloted, and Brooklands Primary School where a part time library assistant is employed. The ICT Co-ordinator in Dundonald Primary School also provided assistance and shared ICT activities enjoyed by pupils. The publication coincides with the revised Schools Library Guidelines published by the Library and Information Services Council (Northern Ireland) and the Department of Education in January.

The format of the publication will enable additions and changes which arise from changes in the curriculum to be slotted in without the need for a totally new publication.

The pack aims to help schools design their own library skills programme with reference to the programmes of study, including the integration of ICT.



Top Children's Author Visits Local Libraries

Sally Hewitt, one of the most popular writers of information books for children, visited several libraries in the Lisburn area on 29th and 30th October.

Her first port of call was Colin Glen Library where she met local children to talk books as part of the Irish Children's Book Festival (féile leabhar na bpáisti). On the afternoon of 29th, Sally headed for Moira Library to meet members of Moira Library



Reading Gang. On Wednesday 30th she met Laurelhill Reading Gang in the morning and in the afternoon the Poleglass Library Reading Gang members had the chance to meet the writer.

Reading Gangs are springing up all over the SEELB area. The Lisburn area has gangs in Moira, Poleglass, Lisburn and Laurelhill libraries. Reading Gangs meet every two months in their local libraries to discuss books and writing among themselves and with library staff.

Typically, there are about 12 members in every gang and ages range from 9 to 11. Children find them great fun and biccies and juice help stimulate the discussions.

The gangs had a real treat when they met Sally Hewitt. She explained all

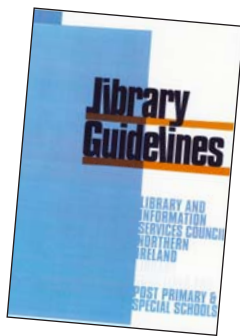
the various activities and processes that go into making a book, from getting the original idea through to the finished article sitting on the library shelves. The audience was not expected to just sit quietly and listen, but was involved in lots of fun activities and games as well.

Sally's reputation as one of the foremost writers of information books for younger readers was confirmed when she was nominated for the Aventis Science Book Award 2003 for her *Why can't I...* series.

She has written a huge number of books on subjects as diverse as animals, pirates, community helpers, aliens, safaris, school newspapers and many more, so it was a challenge for gang members to come up with a question she couldn't answer - but the reading Gangs had a good try!

New Guidelines on School Libraries

The first edition of the "Guidelines" published in 1995 provided a tool to enable schools to evaluate their school library and take action. The revised edition builds on that foundation and takes account of the increasing emphasis on the development of key skills and the implications and opportunities presented by new technology for the delivery and



management of information as well as reader development. The new format of the "Guidelines" allows for the speedy revision of sections without the expense of a total reprint and a folder to which additional relevant documents can be added.

Given the work currently being carried out by CCEA on the review of the curriculum, a school library which is well resourced both in terms of materials and staffing will provide an ideal support for the implementation of these changes. By

providing good quality resources and helpful advice the school library provides a level playing field where all pupils, regardless of their economic or social background, have the opportunity to develop as independent learners. Staff in the Education Library Service at the Board's Library Headquarters in Ballynahinch are always happy to assist and advise on any matter relating to the school library. All schools should receive their copy of the new "Guidelines" by the start of the summer term.



South Eastern Education and Library Board
Annual Celebration of the Arts
May 13 - May 20 2004

The Teaching Awards

Many schools are eagerly anticipating the Teaching Awards 2004 Ceremony for Northern Ireland which will take place on 11 June in Belfast's Waterfront Hall. Twelve other Regional Awards Ceremonies are taking place across England and Wales in the Summer term and then the UK final will take place in October.

The UK Ceremony last year was held on Sunday 26 October at the London Palladium and was hosted by TV presenter Eamon Holmes. The Ceremony was filmed by the BBC and was shown on BBC2 on 30 October and 1 November. As well as raising the profile and public perception of the teaching profession, winning a Teaching Award benefits the whole school community and also highlights excellence and best practice in local schools. Substantial prize packages

of cash, ICT equipment and professional development courses go directly to the school to benefit staff and pupils.

In last year's Northern Ireland Regional Final the sole winner from a school in the Board's area was Mrs Louise Davey from Dundonald High School. Louise won the Award for Excellence in Special Needs Teaching in a Secondary School in Northern Ireland (photo).

Twenty-eight years in teaching, she has spent the last twelve years heading up a Moderate Learning Unit where she has implemented support teaching in English, Maths, History and Geography. She is an invaluable member of the teaching staff and a key contributor to special needs teaching in the local area. For further information on the Teaching Awards visit www.teachingawards.com



Mrs Louise Davey from Dundonald High School

Timely Visit of Lord Andrew McIntosh to Studio ON

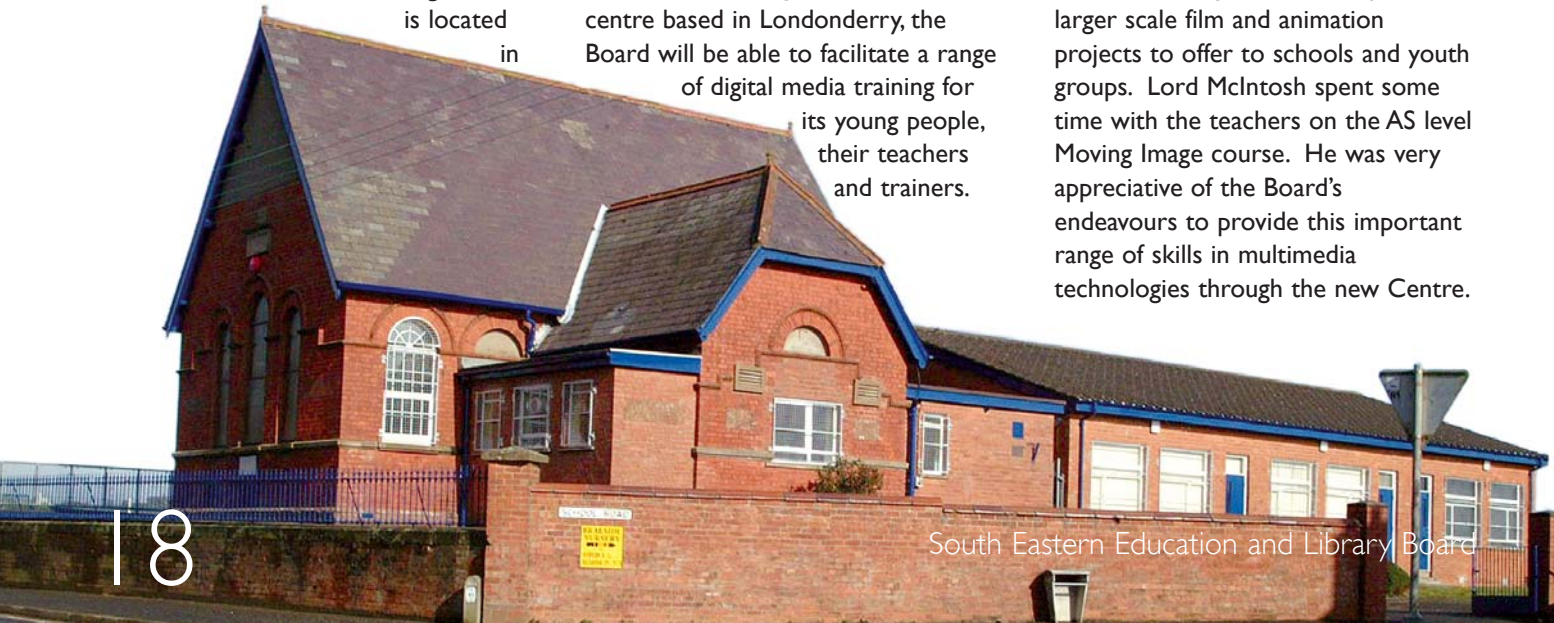
Teachers attending the very first course to be held in Studio ON, Creative Learning Centre on 4th March met with Lord Andrew McIntosh of Harrington, Minister for Media and Heritage. Lord McIntosh who was on a visit to Northern Ireland in relation to the current review of the BBC, came to the Centre to look at the facility and to discuss its planned programme.

Studio ON, Creative Learning Centre, is located in

the former O'Neill Memorial Primary School, Crossnacreevy. It has been established by the Board in direct response to *Unlocking Creativity* a strategic paper published by the four departments of DCAL, DETI, DE and DEL in 2000. By entering into a partnership with the Nerve Centre, the highly acclaimed film and multimedia training centre based in Londonderry, the Board will be able to facilitate a range of digital media training for its young people, their teachers and trainers.



Studio ON has been given initial financial support by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. Through this support the Centre has been able to provide, to date, a series of Media Education workshops in schools and two animation projects. With additional support from the Hamlyn Foundation, the Centre will be able to develop a range of workshops and larger scale film and animation projects to offer to schools and youth groups. Lord McIntosh spent some time with the teachers on the AS level Moving Image course. He was very appreciative of the Board's endeavours to provide this important range of skills in multimedia technologies through the new Centre.



Youth Sport South East is Good for Your Health

At a time when the health of our young people is constantly under the spotlight in terms of lack of fitness, eating habits, obesity and the usual obsession with TV and video games, the Youth Sport South East After School Sport Activity Scheme continues to offer a healthy alternative.



benefited from the sporting activities organised by the school sport coordinators and the sports coaches, in primary, post primary and special schools. Sporting activities offered include: Cross Country, Aerobics, Netball, Basketball and Volleyball.

The Board's Sports Officer, Neil McGivern (photo), points out that recent research had shown that PE and sport within the curriculum and in extra curricular activity can help to make sport and healthy exercise lifelong habits when they are taught well by inspirational teachers, properly qualified coaches and trained adult volunteers:-

"It's clear that habits formed during childhood continue into later life and that young people will be more able to enjoy a fulfilling and healthy adult life if they are fit and active. Youth Sport has helped, through the excellent work of our co-ordinators, coaches and partners in Councils and Sports Clubs, to lay the fundamental foundations of a healthy lifestyle - whilst also raising standards in terms of physical fitness and skill acquisition. Our aim within the next year is to seek additional long term funding which will enable us to consolidate, mainstream and expand this worthwhile successful programme so that many young people for years to come can benefit from involvement in Physical Education and Sport".

Over the past seven years almost 40,000 young people throughout the South Eastern Board area have



Maurice Doherty (left), Principal of The High School, Ballynahinch and Latimer Adair (right), the school's Sport Co-ordinator, celebrate the participation to date of over 5000 young people in their Youth Sport Programme over the past seven years.

Board Takes a Silver ‘Step to Excellence’

At a Gala Quality Awards Evening held in the Ramada Hotel, Belfast on 19 January the Board was awarded Silver Recognition in the *Steps to Excellence* programme of continuous improvement. The Awards were presented by the Northern Ireland Centre for Competitiveness.

The *Steps* programme is based on the nine criteria of the European Foundation For Quality Management (EFQM) business excellence model. The achievement of the award highlights that the Board is able to satisfy the needs of its Customers, People and Society leading ultimately to excellence in Business Results.

The Chief Executive, Mr Jackie Fitzsimons, commented: “the award pays tribute to the hard work and dedication of the Board staff and highlights their commitment to meeting the needs of all their customers and to the continuous improvement of its services to the community.”

To apply for the award the Board had to draw up a 45 page submission against the nine criteria which was

followed by a rigorous 2 day on-site visit by four external assessors from both the private and public sectors. During the on-site visit the assessors met with 16 different groups including

staff from headquarters sites, outcentres, Board suppliers and partners, the Senior Management Team and a group of School Principals.



Left to Right: Mr Nigel McCormick, Public Sector Reform Unit from the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister, Ms Irene Knox, Chief Administrative Officer, SEELB, Councillor Robert Gibson, Chairman, SEELB and Noel Brady, Managing Director, SX3 Ireland.

Environmental Hazards Unit Established

During the past few years there has been a vast increase in legislation relating to health risks arising from the environments in which we work and live. In response to this increasing awareness the Board is once again leading the way in providing the necessary expertise to identify and manage environmental risks.

The Environmental Hazards Unit based in Property Services has been in operation since the 5th of January 2004 and is currently managed by Desi Miskelly. The unit is responsible for ensuring the Board meets its statutory requirements in relation to the management of environmental risks particularly Asbestos, Radon and Legionellosis (legionnaire’s disease)

The unit will:

- Provide an advisory service to all Board properties/staff.

- Educate and train staff
- Identify risks within the estate.
- Manage identified risks.

Although still in its infancy the Environmental Hazards Unit has already completed Asbestos identification surveys of some 62% of Board properties and aims to have the entire estate completed by May. It is currently in the process of completing risk assessments on the information obtained and will shortly begin to issue reports to individual properties. A detailed training programme relating to the management of asbestos is planned for some 1000 property managers /caretakers etc throughout 2004. In addition the Unit, acting on behalf of all the Education and Library Boards, has been successful in bidding for, and obtaining, some £3.5 million in extra funding. The year ahead will see the

instigation of a programme of surveying and measurement relating to Radon and Legionellosis levels in our properties.



More development opportunities for Board front-line staff

Over the past 2 years there has been a concerted effort to provide more learning and development opportunities for the Board's front-line staff namely cleaners, caretakers, bus drivers and escorts, grounds maintenance men and school meals staff. Learning opportunities provided have been varied and have included skills training needed for a particular job such as kitchen hygiene, risk assessment, fire safety, manual handling and back care, behaviour management and NVQs. For the first time staff have also had the opportunity to access programmes which were not job specific but which would have a beneficial effect on their work.

One of the most successful ongoing programmes called *Return To Learn* is being run jointly by the Learning Support Unit and Unison. This programme was designed by Unison specifically for non traditional learners who have not been involved in learning for a long time and aims to increase self confidence and self

esteem over a nine month period as well as brushing up on several skills areas. Many staff who have completed R2L have used it as a stepping stone and confidence builder to progress to other learning opportunities both within the Board and outside.

Many front-line staff have expressed an interest in learning how to use computers so several different programmes have been designed and run. The most popular of these is called *Communication in the Workplace* and incorporates essential skills to brush up on literacy and numeracy skills as well as an introduction to IT. Participants who complete the programme receive a Level 1 credit and certificate in IT from the Open College Network and a literacy qualification from City and Guilds up to a level 2 which is equivalent to a GCSE grade C. One hundred staff are currently on this programme at different locations throughout the Board's area. The Board, Unison and ANIC (the Association for Northern

Ireland Colleges) have established a partnership and these 12-16 week programmes are being offered to all front line staff free of charge.

For details on any of the programmes mentioned or for further information on learning opportunities for front line staff contact Mrs Sarah Lowe, Learning Support Manager, Board Headquarters.

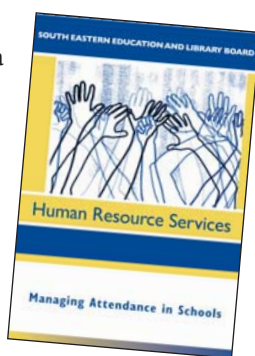


Managing Attendance

Managing attendance is a major issue across the public service in Northern Ireland. Within the education sector specifically, it

has recently been in the spotlight following the Public Accounts Committee's scrutiny of substitute teacher cover expenditure. In addition, however, to the obvious implications for school and Board budgets, high levels of absence may also profoundly affect the quality of education for children.

During February and March, the Board's Human Resources Unit has



been re-launching its *Managing Attendance Policy for Schools*. Through a participative awareness session, managing attendance issues are highlighted and good practice guidance for teachers, principals and Board staff is promoted.

The awareness sessions underline the need to create an 'attendance culture'. In different scenarios this might mean confronting wilful persistent short term absence or instigating support, for example through the confidential Staff Care Service for the early resolution of personal or other issues which may impact on work life and consequently affect attendance. Training videos support this approach.

The Return to Work Interview is also explained and highlighted as a good practice technique in effectively

assessing and managing attendance. The training emphasises the need for discretion in its conduct.

In acknowledging that the vast majority of teachers often struggle into work when others may not, the awareness sessions emphasise the need to establish a clear framework for managing attendance at a local level, supported by sound professional advice from the Board.

If you would like to find out more about the *Managing Attendance Policy*, please do not hesitate to contact any of the following Human Resource staff:

Mary Walker - 9056 6233

John Mason - 9056 6232

Lynette Bailie - 9056 6276

Phil Stewart - 9056 6216

Jackie McComb - 9056 6352

The xI Programme and School - Based Youth Work

Siobhan Byrne - Senior Youth Officer (Curriculum)

The *xI Network* is an informal school-based youth work programme for young people in their final two years of compulsory schooling. It is specifically aimed at young people who are underachieving at school. These young people may be disaffected, disadvantaged, at risk from exclusion from school and suffer a range of issues or difficulties in their lives which create barriers to personal, social and academic achievement.



motivation and develop skills and competencies in preparation for the world of work. Most importantly, it focuses on the personal and social development of young people through a youth work approach in the formal school environment.

Programmes are based in the formal school environment but co-delivered by a Youth Worker/Adviser employed by the SEELB Youth Service and a Link Teacher employed by the school. The programme operates as part of the normal school timetable in a three hour block for five school terms during Year 11 and Year 12 ending prior to GCSE exams. Delivery is undertaken through the youth work informal group work approach, which aims to engage and nurture young people through a modular programme related to a set of competencies. These include key skills such as working with others, improving own learning and performance and

problem solving. Currently there are eleven post primary schools participating in 'xI' with eighteen programmes operating. In September 2004 there will be a total of twenty-two programmes with approximately 250 young people. Other school based youth work programmes are also being piloted and these include *Youthbox*, a post primary Peer Mentoring and Transition programme involving two schools and *Positive Behaviour*, a primary-based personal and social development programme in five schools.

The Youth Sector is well placed to make a significant contribution to lifelong learning through the non-formal youth work approach within the formal school setting. School-based youth work is a major development for the Youth Sector and it is envisaged that formal and non-formal sectors within the Board will continue to work together in the creation of quality educational experiences for young people living in our area.

A Prince's Trust programme, 'xI' is delivered through a partnership developed between the Prince's Trust, SEELB Youth Service and Schools. The SEELB Youth Service is the management partner and works closely with the school in the delivery of the programme.

The programme actively encourages young people to make the most of their time at school, increase their

Summer Sailing at Killyleagh

As the summer season approaches plans are well in hand at Killyleagh Outdoor Education Centre for yet another action packed season of water activities on Strangford Lough.

Once again this year, the Centre, by using its facilities and resources to their optimum potential, will deliver a range of activities for groups and individual young people.

The focus during the summer season is very much based on sailing activities. This year the Centre programme will offer opportunities for up to 150 young people from the Board's area, gaining knowledge, skills and experience in sailing activities. Previous experience is not required as programmes are designed to suit all levels of ability.

The Centre, as a recognised Royal Yachting Association (RYA) teaching establishment, will also give participants the opportunity to gain qualifications in the Royal Yachting Association's personal proficient sailing scheme at levels 1, 2 and 3. The residential-based programmes also provides the opportunity for young people to brush up on the theoretical aspects of sailing and reinforce the day's practical learning sessions, not to mention the opportunity for participants to interact and socialise in one of Northern Ireland's best located Centres.

Strangford Lough, designated by the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland as both an area of outstanding natural beauty and of scientific interest, is home to a vast

array of marine life and numerous islands which host both historical and environmental sites. What better location to be introduced to any outdoor activity, but particularly sailing. For further information telephone the Centre on 4482 8511.



Changing Lives!

Everyone involved in education is engaged in a process of creating opportunities for young people to learn, of providing support for them to face and overcome new challenges, of guiding them to reach beyond the known, the familiar, the safe in order that they might discover new shores. In short, we are in the business of changing lives. Rarely can that business have been more profitable than in the recent exchange between the Down Youth Office and the Youth Peace Academy, Cape Town, South Africa.

For a fortnight in July twelve local young people drawn equally from the two dominant communities in NI hosted a dozen young Africans to a

programme of cultural exchange, political debate, team building and civic engagement. This January their hospitality was more than reciprocated through a programme which allowed the participants opportunities to engage with communities dealing with the legacy of apartheid and the devastating impact of poverty, and at the same time to revel in the breathtaking beauty of the Western Cape.

Over these four wonderful, moving and productive weeks the project created a unique alchemy between the traditional values of two very different cultures – a cross fertilisation of the African concept of ‘Ubuntu’ (shared humanity, fellowship,

mutual support) and the Irish tradition of ‘the Craic’, creating a spirit typified by mutual support and respect, celebration of difference, warmth and laughter. As one young participant commented:

“We have shown people that we can put aside our differences. Every day when people see us together they wonder who we really are and what we are doing together – black, white, coloured, Irish, British, South Africans, Protestant, Catholic, Muslim. They see a unity that doesn’t always exist elsewhere. We are able to draw a picture in people’s minds of what is possible when we work together.”

Matt Milliken - Down Youth Office



SEELB Achievement Awards a Great Success

Set up to celebrate the achievements of young people in schools and youth organisations, the Board's Outstanding Achievement Awards continue to go from strength to strength. Held in Queen's University's Whitla Hall on Saturday 15 November, the 5th Annual Awards Evening began with some fine musical pieces preformed by Regent House Brass Ensemble. This was then followed by a candle lit dinner for the 270 guests.

Compere once again was BBC TV personality Donna Traynor who expertly conducted the presentation of awards by the main sponsors and put all the young award winners very much at ease. Among the specially invited guests were Ards Borough Council Mayor Jim McBride and North Down Borough Council Mayor Anne Wilson, Board Members and

representatives from the Province's main education and youth organisations.

The most important guests of course, were the young people themselves. In support were parents, principals, school governors and senior youth leaders who had come together to share in a notable celebration of achievement. The award categories covered the Arts, Service to the Community, Pupils of Courage, Sport (Individual and Team), Academic Success and Youth Achievement. A special feature this year was the presentation by Mrs Berga Nolan of the Tom Nolan Memorial Award in memory of the former SEELB Chief Executive who died in September.

The presentation of awards was interspersed for the appreciative

audience by several musical interludes from talented young musicians who were themselves collecting Outstanding Achievement Awards. At the end of a very successful evening Chief Executive Jackie Fitzsimons thanked the schools and youth organisations for their participation and support for the Awards. The event, he said, had created a unique opportunity to recognise and reward the diversity of achievements often demonstrated by our young people.

Special thanks must go to the Department of Education, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Fujitsu, Translink and the Northern Bank whose sponsorship had made the evening possible and whose representatives as well as the Board Chairman had participated in the presentation of awards.



Awards 2003