

Subject: SCHOOLS NorthEast Weekly Update - Week 11



The banner features the 'SCHOOLS NorthEast' logo on the left, with the tagline 'The future of our region is in school'. The main text 'WEEKLY UPDATE' is in large, bold, blue letters. On the right is the 'community playthings' logo, which includes an illustration of three children playing. Below the main text is a dark blue box with white text: 'This week's Update is sponsored by Community Playthings who create solid wood furniture and early years resources for nurseries and primary schools. Please click here to see how they worked with Tidemill Academy to create an environment where children feel secure and engage deeply in all the activities on offer.'

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

In this Issue

- A round up of all the latest local and national education news
- Have your say: North East 'regional challenge'?
- Details on an event about dealing with Underperforming Teachers delivered by Dickinson Dees LLP
- 'The Pupil Premium: How to spend it wisely'- resource from Durham University CEM Centre
- Resources from Parliament's Education Service

Focus on...a “new approach for our schools”

Yesterday, SCHOOLS NorthEast was delighted to head to London to attend the CBI's annual conference along with the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, and Mayor of London for the launch of 'First Steps – a new approach to schools'. In this weighty report the CBI states the case as to why education should be the overriding long-term priority for both business and the Government. Their research suggests that raising educational standards could deliver powerful economic benefits equating to more than £8 trillion over the lifetime of a child born today, equivalent to one percentage point on growth each year, as well as positive outcomes in a wide range of social indicators from crime to health.

The report focusses on the systemic problems with the UK education system resulting from the narrow definitions of achievement “that encourage a focus on the average – a cult of relativism that says it is ok for a certain percentage of young people to fail” and calls for a 'whole-system' approach to educational improvement.

Included are a wide range of recommendations setting out businesses' views on school reforms based on a comprehensive review of what works in the UK and across the world.

The first recommendation of the report sets out the need for:

“the development of a clear, widely-owned and stable statement of outcome that all schools should be asked to deliver. This should go beyond the merely academic, into the behaviour and attitudes and attitudes schools should foster in everything they do. It should be the basis on which we judge all new policy ideas, schools and the structures we set up to monitor them.”

At the Conference, Beccy Earnshaw, Director of SCHOOLS NorthEast, directly quizzed the Prime Minister as to whether he accepted this recommendation. Stating that he had not yet had a chance to fully read the report, Cameron expressed his support for league tables and external exams and the need for a greater focus on English and Maths in schools.

The report's other recommendations span from early years to progression at 18 and are backed up by a wealth of data, case studies and models for reform. They include scrapping the national curriculum in primary schools and replacing it with clear goals for literacy, numeracy, science and computer science, extending the 'decentralisation of control' for all schools, introducing a new approach to the school transfer age, and the creation of a more diverse assessment system at key points to replace high stakes exams at 16.

In the past, the CBI has been criticised by educational organisations for denigrating schools, but CBI Director John Cridland was keen to stress that "not one message from this latest report is criticising young people or educational professionals" and the report has been widely welcomed by teaching unions and education commentators.

Brian Lightman, General Secretary of ASCL, who was a part of the report steering committee said:

"The report highlights the pressing need for a long term strategy for our education system, which will provide the stability school and college leaders require in order to embed sustainable improvements...ASCL particularly welcomes the recommendation that there needs to be a clear and widely owned statement of the outcomes that all schools should deliver and a recognition that this needs to go far beyond academic achievement. We wholly agree with the CBI's view that the accountability framework focuses far too much on statistics relating to institutional performance, as opposed to learning outcomes for individuals, which leads to an unhealthy focus on threshold indicators."

Chris Keates, General Secretary of the NASUWT, added her support saying:

"The CBI report has recognised the important link between high-quality education systems and economic competitiveness... The CBI is right to call for a move away from the damaging system of crude performance tables, which provides perverse incentives, narrows the curriculum and denies parents and the public access to quality information on schools' strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for development."

The NUT's Christine Blower highlighted the CBI's support for broader accountability measures:

"Getting rid of league tables would certainly be a step forward. They do not drive up standards but simply create an atmosphere of fear and pressure which often leads to teaching to the test. The narrow focus of the examination which excludes creative subjects and vocational qualifications is also wrong and will alienate many able pupils.... The goal for all pupils to achieve a good standard of education in core academic subjects is a shared one. We also need however to recognise the skills and developments that are learnt when pupils get the recognition and encouragement to take up a broad range of studies and activities."

Views echoed by the NAHT, as Russell Hobby said: "We are pleased to note that the CBI says it understands how the pressure on schools from the current narrow assessment regime, driven by the arbitrary requirements of maintaining league table positions, can work against developing individual potential."

'First Steps' signals the beginning of a major education focussed campaign. SCHOOLS NorthEast will be working with the CBI to explore how our region's business and education community can best work together to achieve some of the positive changes outlined in the report. If you would be interested in hearing more about this work and getting involved please email Beccy Earnshaw on nr.earnshaw@schoolsnortheast.com

You can download the report and find out more about the CBI's campaign [here](#).

Further reading

- [Wanted: more rebel teachers to break norm](#) (Independent)
- [CBI complains of 'exam factory' schools](#) (BBC News)
- [Business leaders criticise slipping standards of 'exam factory' schools](#) (Guardian)
- [Business and education leaders back CBI calls for school improvement](#) (CBI)
- [CBI calls for overhaul of school system to deliver for all](#) (CBI)

Have your say: North East 'regional challenge?'

The Shadow Education Secretary, Stephen Twigg, has urged a series of "regional challenges" like those which have "transformed" schools in London and Manchester.

Twigg told an invited audience at the House of Commons: "This arc of underachievement runs through many of our seaside towns and coastal cities. There is also an arc of underachievement that includes a number of northern towns and cities in England.

However, there are also some beacons of excellence such as Manchester and Bury, and we need to learn from their success."

Twigg called for regional versions of the City Challenges that ran in London, Manchester and the Black Country from 2008 to 2011. In the capital, a similar programme, the London Challenge, began in 2003. These schemes encouraged collaboration, providing external experts to work alongside existing Head Teachers in struggling schools, bespoke support programmes and mentoring by Head Teachers from stronger schools.

SCHOOLS NorthEast would like to know your views regarding the possibility of a North East 'regional challenge'. Do you think the North East could benefit from such a scheme? Is it possible for the North East to become a 'beacon of excellence'? Is there a need for a regional challenge? Would schools embrace the challenge or oppose it? Email your views tothink@schoolsnortheast.com

Top regional news

Central High attempt to break world record

100 girls from Central Newcastle High School took part in an attempt to break a world record in science last Tuesday morning.

They gathered together to drop beanbags and measure pendulum swings, as part of what they hoped would be the biggest practical science lesson in multiple venues. To be successful they needed 1000 girls in 25 venues carrying out 2 'hands on' experiments at the same time.

The girls took part alongside over 2000 pupils from the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) to mark the 140th anniversary of the trust. All the schools are waiting for their attempt to be approved by Guinness World Records.

- [Central high attempt to break world record](#) (Jesmond Local)

National Lottery Awards success for BALTIC

The BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art has been crowned the UK's favourite arts project in this year's National Lottery Awards. What makes this award even more special is that it is voted for by the public. BALTIC will join six other category award winners in education, environment, health, heritage,

sport, and voluntary/charity at a special awards ceremony shown live on BBC One on the evening of Saturday 8 December. Don't forget to tune in!

- [Lottery prize for Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art](#) (Chronicle Live)

Local news by area

Gateshead

- [School leads the way for recruitment](#) (News Post Leader)
- [Former Kibblesworth teacher documents village's past](#) (Chronicle Live)

Hartlepool

- [Joy at bus decision](#) (Hartlepool Mail)
- [Pupils speak up in contest](#) (Hartlepool Mail)
- [Awards galore at annual ceremony](#) (Hartlepool Mail)
- [Pupils' careers to take off!](#) (Hartlepool Mail)
- [Eldon Grove pupils take a challenge for the future](#) (Hartlepool Mail)

Middlesbrough

- [Billingham pupils crowned Premier League Enterprise Challenge champions](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Egglescliffe School music teacher scoops national honour](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Nunthorpe Primary School receives national award](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Nunthorpe Academy students go into the Dragons' Den](#) (Gazette Live)

Newcastle

- [Newcastle teenagers keen to be in great outdoors](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Beech Hill pupils pay tribute to 'sunny' Bobby-Jo](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Pupils celebrate new Westgate Hill Primary School!](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [West Denton girl, 8, dies hours after complaining of a headache](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Throckley pupils want Wish tokens for Toma Fund](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Bernard Trafford, head of Newcastle's Royal Grammar School](#) (NE Business)

Northumberland

- [Allendale Middle School survey to go to council and MP](#) (Journal)
- [Allendale Middle School governors lose power battle](#) (Journal)
- [Pupils take a look at life in the Lords](#) (News Post Leader)
- [College gets new man at the helm](#) (News Post Leader)
- [Youngster to debate in Parliament](#) (News Post Leader)
- [Political fall-out of high school decision](#) (Northumberland Gazette)
- [Pupils bid farewell to Margaret](#) (Northumberland Gazette)

North Tyneside

- [Advert for The King's School in Tynemouth proved misleading](#) (Journal)
- [Youngsters wanna try new skills](#) (News Guardian)

Stockton

- [Stockton primary school achieves 'good' Ofsted report](#) (Gazette Live)

South Tyneside

- [Diverse school is top of the class](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Youngsters learn to beat the bullies](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Pupils in peril over parking](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Choir tunes up for carol service](#) (Shields Gazette)

Sunderland

- [Improved rating for primary school](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Duchess opens new Washington academy](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Massive drop in Sunderland university applications](#) (Sunderland Echo)

Redcar

- [Guisborough students launch How To Get A Job guide](#) (Gazette Live)

Regional

- [All smiles as North East children honoured for bravery](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [The online survey every North East teenager should fill in](#) (Journal)

Top national education news

Olympics has not boosted school sport

A survey by sporting charity 'Chance to Shine' warns that schools appear to be failing to capitalise on the inspirational legacy of the London Olympics. It suggests that whilst the Olympics inspired more than half of children to take up a new sport, 80% of parents say the amount of PE and games in UK schools has not increased. The survey also revealed that more than half of children fail to get at least two hours of physical education every week.

Wasim Khan, Chief Executive of Chance to Shine, said: "Parents are saying that many of their children were inspired by the Games to play more or to try a new sport. We owe it to those children to ensure we have the right infrastructure to make it a reality."

- [Olympic legacy failing on the school playing fields](#) (Telegraph)
- [Olympics has not boosted school sport, survey suggests](#) (BBC News)

Children give up activities to avoid being bullied

Research, released to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week, highlights how bullying can hold children back from achieving their full potential. The research suggests that children are deliberately underachieving or giving up activities they enjoy to avoid bullying.

A survey by the Anti-Bullying Alliance found more than 90 per cent of children say they have been bullied or seen someone bullied for being more talented than others. More than a quarter of those aged 11 to 16 had given up a favourite activity because of bullying, and half had played down a talent for fear of being bullied – rising to 53 per cent among girls.

- [Children give up activities to avoid being bullied](#) (Telegraph)
- [Pupils hiding talents from bullies, survey suggests](#) (BBC News)

Ofsted's Sir Michael Wilshaw tells Head Teachers to "stop moaning"

Sir Michael Wilshaw, Chief Inspector of Ofsted, speaking at the London Festival of Education, said that being a Head Teacher was a brilliant, well paid job and that school leaders had no grounds to complain.

"I have no time for Head Teachers who go around moaning," Sir Michael told Heads, teachers and academics at the Institute of Education in London. "They have to get on and do it."

His comments come ten days before Ofsted's annual report, published on Nov 27, which will focus heavily on the quality of leadership in England's primary and secondary schools.

- [Ofsted head Sir Michael Wilshaw tells head teachers to "stop moaning"](#) (Telegraph)

What else we learnt this week...

- [Costly hi-tech kit lies unused in schools, says study](#)
- [Humanists lose Richmond Catholic school fight](#)
- [Poorer pupils 'lack confidence' for top universities](#)
- [Cyberbullying may force out young teachers, says union](#)
- [Shorten our summer holidays and we'll go on strike, warn teachers](#)
- [Gove heckled by teachers](#)

Resources and Opportunities

The Pupil Premium: How to spend it wisely

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

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

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

Resources from Parliament's Education Service

This November, Parliament's Education Service is celebrating Parliament Week! The initiative is taking place all week (from 19 - 25 November) and aims to build greater awareness of, and engagement with, parliamentary democracy in the UK.

Parliament has pulled together a list of useful resources and events including downloadable assembly plans, teacher training opportunities, interactive timelines and lesson packs.

[Click here to view the resources online.](#)

Education Network Competition: Win a Football Kit for your school

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

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

Calling all School Business Managers...tell us what you want!

Changing school structures, pressure to do more with less, new partnerships, reforms to regulations, procurement challenges and much, much more – the role and responsibilities of School Business Managers are becoming increasingly complex and demanding.

To help you access the support and advice you need and to create opportunities for you to collaborate with colleagues and share best practise, SCHOOLS NorthEast is arranging a conference and programme of events especially for you! Like all SCHOOLS NorthEast events these will be offered at no or low cost to schools, at venues across the region. To make sure we know exactly what you would like and need we would be very grateful if you would please take part in this short survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2ZTNRQ6> and to register your interest for these events email info@schoolsnortheast.com

Achievement for All Programme

Last month, Education Minister Edward Timpson announced an extension of a further two years of support from Government for Achievement for All, a tailored school improvement framework, delivered in partnership with leaders, teachers, parents, pupils and support professionals to raise the aspirations, access and achievement of pupils identified with SEND, Looked After Children, pupils eligible for Free School Meals and other vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils.

The Achievement for All framework provides each school with an evidence-based, value for money programme, subsidised by government and business, providing support and resources to address the achievement gap, and enabling schools in the sharing of information and best practice across the Achievement for All community.

The programme is currently being delivered by Achievement for All 3As, a not-for-profit charity in over 1,200 schools and in partnership with SCHOOLS NorthEast, CEO Sonia Blandford and her team will be up in the region to discuss how you can get involved on the 5, 6 and 7 February 2013. More details will follow soon but you can find out more at <http://www.afa3as.org.uk/> and register your interest by emailing events@schoolsnortheast.com

Events

Dealing with Underperforming Teachers Seminar by Dickinson Dees LLP – 21 November

The new Teachers' Standards came into effect on 1 September 2012. This seminar, presented by James Wilders, partner, and Laura Daniels, associate, in Dickinson Dees' employment team, will address the new regulations along with giving practical advice and explaining legal considerations. The seminar will be relevant to academies and maintained schools alike, with a strong focus on the routes available to improving performance and the pitfalls for the unwary.

This event is for Head Teachers, members of SLT and Governors and will take place on Wednesday 21 November between 6pm (6.30pm start) and 8pm at Dickinson Dees office in Newcastle.

To book your free place today email r.clegg@schoolsnortheast.com

National Space Academy Showcase event - 3 December

The National Space Academy is a network of outstanding teachers and space scientists that use the inspirational context of space to teach STEM subjects. Led by the National Space Centre the Academy delivers student master-classes, teacher CPD and holds careers events, its purpose being to materially enhance the size and quality of the UK science and engineering skills pool.

They are holding a **free showcase** event on **3 December at The Kings Academy** in Middlesbrough between **4.30pm and 6.30pm**. The event includes a 1 hour free teacher training session. For more information about the event, [please click here](#).

Woodham Academy Open day – 29 January 2013

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

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

Behaviour for Learning – 24 January 2013

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

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

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

Number crunch

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

- **49% of Head Teacher** candidates in Alberta and **44% in Singapore** have experience of paid leadership outside of education compared to 20% in England.
- There are **5 times the number** of applicants for every teaching post in Finland than England
- More than **10% of the best UK high-flyers** were educated at a handful of prestigious private schools (Sutton Trust)
- At the age of five, the vocabulary of a child from a **low-income family is on average 11 months behind** that of a child from a higher-income background (CBI)
- Children from the highest social class group are **three times more likely** to go to university than those from the lowest social class groups (CBI)
- **More children 5-7yrs can use a Smartphone** than can tie their own shoelaces says Mori
- Britain's best universities **'failed to fill 11,500 places'**

- **71% of graduates choosing** to train for a career in teaching now have a 2.1 or higher (6% up from last year)
- **900 graduates** are expected to start training as physics teacher this year (the highest number since record began!)

Have a great week!

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