

SCHOOLS NorthEast Weekly Update - Week 12

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The banner features the 'SCHOOLS NorthEast' logo on the left, with the tagline 'The future of our region is in schools'. To the right, the text 'WEEKLY UPDATE' is written in large blue letters, followed by the 'Education NETWORK' logo in red and black. Below this, a dark blue box contains white text: 'This week's update is sponsored by Education Network who specialise in recruiting for all education jobs, as well as offering schools payroll and consultancy services. Click here for more information and see below for details on a competition they are running to win a free team football strip.'

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Focus on... implications of school funding reforms

It has long been a source of contention that schools of similar types in different parts of England receive vastly different levels of funding per pupil. The amount of funding an individual school receives is currently based on a complex formula involving a wide range of different criteria and involves significant discretion at a Local Authority level. With the aim of simplifying the system for allocating funding and making it fairer, more transparent and responsive to changes in pupil profiles, the Government has committed to introducing a national schools funding formula. On Friday, the Institute for Fiscal Studies launched a major report analysing the Government's plans to reform school funding in England and calculating the implications of the proposed system on different areas and types of schools.

The research sets out a range of different options for the design of a national formula and explores the outcomes of these options. The findings show that even under options designed to minimise the amount of disruption in the system, roughly one in six schools nationally would see cuts in funding of 10% or more compared with existing policy, while one in ten schools would see their funding increase by 10% or more.

Under the proposals the researchers found that the North East along with the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber would be likely to receive less money, whilst regions such as the East Midlands and South East would receive more. Amongst individual areas within the North East there would also be winners and losers. At Primary level Darlington schools would gain an increase in funding of between 8-9.8% but Sunderland schools would face a reduction of between 6.3-7.3%. For the Secondaries, Northumberland schools can look forward to gains of 3.2-4% whilst Newcastle schools' allocation could be cut by 8.9-10.6%. The report's authors call on the Government to introduce the reforms gradually over a long period of time and to be very transparent about how the changes will impact on individual school to enable schools to effectively plan for the future.

“An explicit national formula offers significant advantages, including simplicity, transparency and responsiveness of school funding,” Luke Sibieta, the senior research economist at the IFS said. “But change would also bring costs and disruption with large losses for some schools. If the Government believes that a national funding formula represents the ideal system, it should begin the transition soon and be more transparent about which schools and local authorities could be most affected,” he added.

The DfE responded to the findings stating that no decisions had been made on funding reforms but that some schools would receive more and others less under the proposals and that they would introduce transitional arrangements to ensure schools do not experience sharp changes to their budgets.

In the TES’s coverage of the report, David Grigg, Head Teacher of Lord Lawson of Beamish School in Gateshead was quoted as saying that he favours a national funding formula that also has local flexibility as “(It) should give schools as much independence as possible in deciding how their funding should be spent - they understand and can respond to their students’ needs much more effectively than either local authorities or central government.”

The full report can be read [here](#).

SCHOOLS NorthEast is planning to hold a seminar with invited experts to discuss how these complex and important reforms might impact on our region’s schools. We will in touch soon with further details – in the meantime you can register your interest by emailing info@schoolsnortheast.com

Further reading

[IFS: ‘Winners and losers’ in school funding revamp](#) (Telegraph)

[Urban schools faces 10% cuts under national funding deal](#) (TES)

North East education news

Durham

[Apprentice star Melody in tune with youngsters at Durham school](#) (Sunderland Echo)

[Global view helps school to international award](#) (Northern Echo)

[European visitors head to Fishburn school](#) (Northern Echo)

[Sweet idea for piano concert](#) (Northern Echo)

Gateshead

[Gateshead school staff lead the way in fitness drive](#) (Journal Live)

Hartlepool

[Studio’s set to rock again](#) (Hartlepool Mail)

[Stepping back in time](#) (Hartlepool Mail)

[Pupils go global](#) (Hartlepool Mail)

[Students get their rewards](#) (Hartlepool Mail)

Middlesbrough

[Nunthorpe Primary after school club is slammed](#) (Gazette Live)

[Eaglescliffe pupils in support for Amelia Lily](#) (Gazette Live)

[Pupils launch campaign to save Marton Library](#) (Gazette Live)

Northumberland

[Move over Poirot, it's CSI Humpty](#) (Northumberland Gazette)

[Closure threat to village school](#) (Northumberland Gazette)

[Northumberland College pulls out of merger](#) (Chronicle Live)

[Northumberland villages' schools on brink on closure](#) (Journal Live)

[Northumberland youngsters given bursaries to train as pilots](#) (Journal Live)

[School assault inquiry](#) (Hexham Courant)

[College campus saved after merger collapses](#) (Morpeth Herald)

[School tackles bullying](#) (Hexham Courant)

North Tyneside

[Chris makes big splash at new school](#) (News Guardian)

[Excellent service for children](#) (News Guardian)

Redcar and Cleveland

[Redcar teen wins place at New York Film Academy](#) (Gazette Live)

South Tyneside

[Pupils are on track in F1 challenge](#) (Shields Gazette)

[Housing ideas prove green credential](#) (Shields Gazette)

[Groups rewarded for helping to beat bullies](#) (Shields Gazette)

[Bike ride raises more than a laugh](#) (Shields Gazette)

[Pupils get lesson in healthy eating](#) (Shields Gazette)

[Education off to a good start](#) (Shields Gazette)

Stockton

[Plan to build school in Stockton's Preston Park dropped](#) (BBC News)

[Staff to go in Early Years Service shake-up](#) (Gazette Live)

[£17.8m school and youth centre unveiled](#) (Northern Echo)

[Matthew was a true inspiration](#) (Peterlee Mail)

Sunderland

[Luxury hamper for our veterans](#) (Sunderland Echo)

[Youngsters have a go at fighting crime](#) (Sunderland Echo)

[Respects paid to fallen brave](#) (Sunderland Echo)

[Labour leader Ed Miliband supports Sunderland Echo campaign](#) (Sunderland Echo)

[Beating Sunderland's bullies](#) (Sunderland Echo)

[Sunderland student Phil leaves the competition bowled over](#) (Sunderland Echo)

[People-power finally wins the day as speed limit is cut at Sunderland](#) (Sunderland Echo)

[Sunderland schoolboy Thomas rises to a spooky challenge from Greggs](#) (Sunderland Echo)

Omitted articles

We try to include all the local press coverage relating to North East schools in the Weekly News Update, but there may be occasions when articles are overlooked. If you are aware of an article which has not been included please email the details to r.clegg@schoolsnortheast.com so that we can include it in a future edition.

National education news

The Ofsted annual report 2011

The Ofsted Annual report 2011, launched today, reveals that 57% of schools inspected in 2010/11 were found to have been delivering a good or outstanding standard of education. Just 6 % of schools inspected this year were judged inadequate, a decrease from 8% last year.

The report shows that there remains a strong link between deprivation and the quality of schools. 71% of schools serving the least deprived pupils were judged to be good or outstanding compared to 48% serving the most deprived pupils.

Ofsted also warns that nearly 800 schools visited by school inspectors this year are "stuck" at Satisfactory and are failing to improve. 14% of schools visited by inspectors were judged as satisfactory twice in a row and their capacity to improve was found to be no better than satisfactory.

[Nearly a third of schools 'not good enough'](#) (Telegraph)

[Ofsted finds 800 schools stuck on 'satisfactory' rating](#) (Guardian)

Teaching training applications fall

On Friday, the TES reported that applications for Teacher Training courses have fallen by nearly a third according to figures from the Graduate Teacher Training Registry. Commentators suggest that

the drop is a reaction to the removal of bursaries for applicants for “non-priority” subjects or those with less than a 2:1 in their undergraduate degree and more students choosing to follow school-based training routes. The number of people applying to start secondary teacher training courses in chemistry has fallen by 41.3%, while applications for German are down 42% and Spanish 47%. Applications to train as English teachers are down 39.1% and Maths 26.9%. Education Secretary Michael Gove confirmed last week that graduates with first class degrees in Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Modern Foreign Languages will receive bursaries of up to £20,000 in the future to help them train.

[Teacher training applications down](#) (Independent)

[£20k bait fails to reel in a haul of trainees](#) (TES)

SEN children make big step forward in English and Maths, according to new report

An independent evaluation of a Government-funded pilot programme has found that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) have made remarkable progress in attainment, behaviour and attendance as a result of their involvement in Achievement for All

The programme, which has been running in around 450 schools for the last two years, saw children make greater progress in English and maths than other SEND children across the country with a significant number exceeding the progress of non-SEND children.

The Government has now committed £14 million to help fund the roll-out of Achievement for All which is being delivered by a new charity, Achievement for All 3As, supported by PwC and is encouraging schools to come forward and sign up for the scheme.

[SEN children make big step forward in English and Maths, according to new report](#) (DfE)

Events

Occupational Health & Absence Management Seminar

Are you looking for a way to manage sickness and absence in your school?

Muckle LLP is running a seminar on managing sickness and absence with a particular focus on how best to utilise your occupational health support and to interpret the advice given. The seminar will include input from experienced practitioners and experts in this field and will address disability issues and reasonable adjustments, as well as best practice for sickness management.

The interactive session will provide a case study and opportunity for delegates to ask questions of the experts. It will conclude with a "Top Tips" summary that will be invaluable to you going forward.

The seminar will be held on Thursday 1 December 2011 from 8:30 to 10:30 am at Muckle LLP's offices (Time Central, 32 Gallowgate, Newcastle, NE1 4BF)

This event is free of charge and you can register for a place by clicking [here](#).

SCHOOLS NorthEast MPs' lunches

SCHOOLS NorthEast is hosting a number of MPs' Lunches in the coming weeks. These lunches are great opportunities for Head Teachers to sit down with local MPs to discuss and debate the key challenges and opportunities facing North East schools.

This week's MPs Lunch: Ian Swales MP (Redcar) – 12.00pm Friday 25 November 2011 at the Gisborough Hall Hotel.

We have limited spaces left so please book now to avoid disappointment.

Upcoming Lunches this term are;

Alan Campbell MP (Tynemouth at the Grand Hotel) – Friday 2 December 2011

David Miliband MP (South Shields) - Friday 9 December 2011

Places at the lunches are free but are very limited and exclusive to Head Teachers. If you would like to attend a lunch, or if you would like any more information, please email info@schoolsnortheast.com or give us a call on (0191) 280 5037.

Engage your teachers to develop their own knowledge of literacy

The Open University are running Cluedo mystery workshops for teachers, aiming to develop a range of approaches to teaching literacy using technology. Teachers will have the chance to try video using a greenscreen, to practice interviewing skills, use sound recordings to develop instructional writing and images to show how 'plot devices' can move stories forward. In addition, a session will be led by Bill Lord, literacy expert, who will enthuse and develop literacy skills, including using blogging and Twitter.

The event will be held on Friday 2 December at 9.30am to 12pm and will be repeated 13.00 to 15.30 at The Open University in the North in Gateshead. Click [here](#) to book a place.

Resources and Opportunities

Free football team strip competition

Looking to update your school's football strip this season? SCHOOLS NorthEast Commercial Supporter and weekly update sponsor, Education Network, is offering primary schools a chance to win one of four complete football strips. The strips include fourteen shirts, socks and shorts (plus a goalkeeper's strip), numbered and sponsored by Education Network.

To enter the competition simply email; newcastle@ednetwork.co.uk with the subject '**Football Strip Competition**' and you will receive details on this free to enter competition. The first winner will be announced in next week's Weekly Update.

Developing 'outstanding' Head Teachers for challenging schools

SCHOOLS NorthEast Commercial Supporter, Future Leaders, is launching in the North East in September 2012 to develop outstanding Head Teachers for challenging secondary schools. Their intensive three-year programme contains a mix of residential and on-the-job training, coaching from experienced Head Teachers and an initial one-year residency placement in an exemplary challenging school.

They are looking for schools who meet their eligibility criteria and who are willing to offer a Future Leaders participant a challenging role at SLT level. In return, your school will receive a Future Leader who comes with a 25% salary subsidy and is expected to demonstrate impact through a focused school improvement initiative during their residency year.

Please visit www.future-leaders.org.uk for more information - or contact Hannah Ashleigh to discuss the options for your school - 07432 733 250 or Hannah.ashleigh@future-leaders.org.uk

School's chance to produce BBC Radio 4's Any Questions

If you're looking for a way to engage your pupils in key debates and discussions then the BBC are currently hosting a competition named 'Schools Questions and Answers.' The winners will have the opportunity to help produce editions of BBC Radio 4's Any Questions, or produce their own Question Time-style events which will be webcast live, and appear on BBC Parliament. The runners-up get a day trip to Westminster where they'll get to places the public don't often go and meet MPs and peers.

All schools need to do is submit a five minute piece of video or audio of students debating a topic of their choice. The pupils need to be aged between 14 and 19. The full details on what's required to enter are [available here](#) and the closing date is December 4.

New 'Local Area Interactive Tool' introduced by the DfE

The Department for Education has developed the Local Area Interactive Tool (LAIT) to provide easy access to a wide range of data related to children and young people sourced from various departments across government. It acts as a single central evidence base that helps support the Accountability Framework and Transparency Agenda.

The LAIT is an Excel-based tool that provides user-friendly access to a system that brings together a consistent set of local authority (LA) performance and data items. Click [here](#) to utilise this resource.

Bring festive cheer to your school with letters from Father Christmas

Encourage your parents and teachers to order letters from Father Christmas for all the good boys and girls at your school. Children North East are working on behalf of Father Christmas to help deliver the letters and they also have large cards for everyone in your school to sign. Last dates to order cards are 9 December and Father Christmas letters by 15 December to ensure delivery in time for Christmas. You can order by phone on 0191 256 2444 or click [here](#).

Grants and funding

Britannia Community Fund

The Britannia Community fund offers a quick and simple application process to schools that require donations of up to £1,000. Britannia, part of the Co-operative Bank, state their priority will be in areas where they believe they can make the biggest difference in supporting education and wherever possible promoting an improvement in numeracy and financial literacy.

They aim to support any school working within their key priorities, that operate within a local community. Whilst the Britannia Community Fund focuses on buying specific items or equipment, eg educational toys, books, it will also support small projects in support of these key priorities. For more information and to apply please click [here](#).

Head to Head

This week we spoke to Neil Appleby from Rye Hills School in Redcar.

This week was...full of young people who make this job the best in the world.

The two best things that happened at school this week were...having a meal dropped off by a Y10 catering student - chorizo with saffron risotto. Having my photo taken with 30 students who raised £3000 for Zoe's Place the Children's hospice, they made me so proud.

The biggest disappointment at school this week was...parents who really don't understand just how much you are investing in their child.

The funniest thing that happened at school this week was...negotiating with a pair of trainers under the toilet door.

One thing that would have made my job easier this week was...radios that work.

Top of my to-do list for next week is...short listing my new Head Boy and Girl.

My hero of the week was...Ernest Shackleton.

My villain of the week was...Saif Ghaddafi.

Question from last week's Head Teacher: "What is your favourite memory of your own school days?" Taking a detour from the cross country to play pool at a mates house, and then taking the short cut back after covering ourselves in mud.

My question for next week's Head Teacher is..."What made you become a Head?"

Star pupil...Michael Gove

The Spectator Parliamentarian of the Year Awards named Education Secretary, Michael Gove, 'Minister of the Year.' We'll let you make your own mind up whether Gove has done enough to warrant the title.

Could try harder... Child Poverty in the North East

120 years after they were founded to work with street children in Newcastle, regional charity, Children North East is drawing attention to the fact that child poverty is not a thing of the past. The North East has the highest levels of child poverty in England and tomorrow photographs taken by 1,200 children and young people will be exhibited to show what poverty looks like today in our region. The photos will be the central focus at a National Conference about Child Poverty at the Sage, Gateshead where over 250 delegates will be challenged to generate 120 actions to end child poverty.

Have a great week!

Have you signed up as a SCHOOLS NorthEast Enhanced Member yet? For full details on the great range of benefits available to Enhanced Members, click [here](#).

The SCHOOLS NorthEast Weekly Update goes out to every Head Teacher in the North East every Tuesday, 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.

Plus 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 the above address.