

Subject: SCHOOLS NorthEast Weekly Update - Week 13



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
- Future Leaders school and participant recruitment for 2013 cohort now open
- Design a football shirt - competition to win a signed newcastle
- Is academy conversion on your 2013 “to-do” list? – event from Samuel Phillips
- Assistance for academies applying for the Capital Maintenance Funding

Focus on...the Tech Bacc

In an interview in the Sunday Times this weekend the Government announced their intention to introduce a 16 – 18 Tech Bacc “to revolutionise vocational education with skills-based qualifications, extended maths, a project and work experience”. Yesterday in Parliament, Skills Minister Matthew Hancock repeated their position stating “World-class vocational education is vital for a world-class economy, so we are bringing rigour to vocational education by recognising the best qualifications, strengthening apprenticeships and introducing a Tech Bacc to reward and celebrate stretching occupational education”.

The concept of a Tech Bacc was originally proposed by Lord Adonis in his book ‘Education, Education, Education’ and in October, Ed Milliband announced Labour plans for a “gold standard vocational qualification at 18...called a Technical Baccalaureate” to “provide a clear path to success for the 50% of students who do not plan to go to University.”

There is still little information as to the details of the Tech Bacc but so far reports suggests that under the plans students will be able to choose from a limited number of vocational courses approved for the Government’s Tech Bacc from the autumn of 2014. Mathematics will be a requirement in the Tech Bacc but not English and the ‘qualification’ will include an the extended project.

It is expected that the Government will announce the list of courses that will qualify for the Tech Bacc next year with commentators speculating that approximately 400 or fewer of 4,000 present post-16 qualifications are likely to count. Approved courses are expected to involve a high proportion of external assessment rather than marking by teachers. From January 2017 “non- recognised courses” will count in league tables.

The article in the Times argues Labour’ Tech Bacc differs from the Government’s as it would be “a qualification in itself rather than kite-marking a combination of approved courses, skills and experience”.

Shadow Education Secretary, Stephen Twigg welcomed “this u-turn by the Government to supporting Labour’s Tech Bacc proposal” adding:

“When Ed Miliband announced our plans at Labour conference for a gold standard vocational qualification, the Tories rubbished it. Now they say they back it.... they have spent two years focussed on the wrong thing - tinkering with exams at 16 and have now been forced to back our Tech Bacc because it is popular with businesses and students. But they should ensure that all students can experience quality vocational education from 14 and study Maths and English to 18 which their plans don’t guarantee.”

The Tech Bacc policy comes after Skills Minister, Matthew Hancock announced a programme of changes for 16-18 vocational education at the Association of Colleges Annual Conference including:

- The introduction of reformed performance tables from January 2014, showing institutions’ performance in A levels and in vocational qualifications separately.
- From 2017, league table with separate columns for academic, vocational and “occupation-specific” qualifications
- New minimum standards that will apply to school sixth forms, sixth-form colleges and further education colleges to identify the weakest performing institutions either in A levels or in vocational qualifications.

The Government also announced that a consultation on how to identify the highest value vocational qualifications for 16- to 18-year-olds will be launched early in the New Year.

Your view – is the Tech Bacc a good idea? If so how should it be structured and what should or should not be included? Should there be an equivalent Tech Bacc for 14-16 year olds to sit alongside the EBacc? Do you agree with the reforms to the league tables? What is the role of employers in designing and delivering vocational qualifications? Let us know email think@schoolsnortheast.com

- [Gove steals a march on Labour’s ‘Tech Bacc’](#) (Times Online)

Top regional news

North East teachers handed standards warning by Ofsted

Regional press on Ofsted’s annual report (covered in detail in last week’s newsletter) highlights a warning from Ofsted’s Chief Inspector Sir Michael Wilshaw that teachers will “no longer be able to use deprivation as an excuse for failing children” as well as highlighting concerns regarding wide variations in standards from one local authority to another.

- [North East teachers handed standards warning by Ofsted](#) (Journal Live)

Excelsior Academy invites Jamie Oliver to try its menu

SCHOOLS NorthEast would like to congratulate Lyndsey Anderson from Excelsior Academy who has won the ‘Best Public Caterer 2012’ award at the BBC Radio 4 food awards! There was more good news for the school when Jamie Oliver accepted an invitation to visit Excelsior and try out their healthy lunches.

- [Excelsior Academy invites Jamie Oliver to try its menu](#) (Chronicle Live)

Nick Hudson announced as Regional Director of Ofsted for the North

Following an announcement from Ofsted regarding the introduction of regional structures, Nick Hudson has been announced Regional Director of Ofsted for the North East and Yorkshire and Humber.

He is currently Corporate Director for People at Wigan Council and leads all of the Council's services for children and adults. He has led school improvement services in two local authorities including the introduction of a school consortia based model in Wigan.

Nick stated:

"I'm really excited to be joining Ofsted at a time of significant change for the organisation. The establishment of the Regional Structure provides a wonderful opportunity for Ofsted to have a real and meaningful presence across the system. The role of the Regional Director is principally one of leadership focusing on schools and providers who have not yet been judged to be, at least, Good. I am relishing the opportunity of working in partnership with key players regionally, and nationally, to support and challenge these institutions to improve."

Read more about regional structures on the [Ofsted website](#).

- [New North East Director for Ofsted](#) (ITV News)

Local news by area

Darlington

- [Schools named region's best](#) (Northern Echo)
- [Cockerton pupils take part in superhero walk to school](#) (Northern Echo)
- [School rewards achievements of former students](#) (Northern Echo)

Durham

- [Head teacher adds final bolt to £11m school](#) (Northern Echo)

Middlesbrough

- [Norton youngsters hit by thieves step out to replace money](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Thornaby Academy told it is inadequate by Ofsted](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Face off in Middlesbrough school as Movember battle ends](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Report reveals Middlesbrough secondary schools among worst in country](#) (Gazette Live)

Newcastle

- [Old Newcastle school uniform helps African pupils](#) (Journal)

Northumberland

- [Top marks as high school's report is in](#) (Northumberland Gazette)
- [Prior Park School hosts visit from Ugandan teachers](#) (Berwick Advertiser)
- [Prince Andrew meets up with Ashington apprentices](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Pupils step out for sponsored walk](#) (Hexham Courant)
- [MP warns council over Allendale First School reform "on the cheap"](#) (Journal)
- [Cycling pupils show they have a head for safety](#) (Morpeth Herald)
- [Calum goes straight to the top to learn about world politics at the UN](#) (Morpeth Herald)
- [Pupils take over their school](#) (Morpeth Herald)
- [Pupils are branching out for park work](#) (News Post Leader)
- [Schools get recognition in citizenship](#) (News Post Leader)
- [School celebrates its 'outstanding' pupils](#) (Northumberland Gazette)
- [Pupils ins-pie-red to make their own pastry treats](#) (Northumberland Gazette)

Stockton

- [Ian Ramsey School holds Vision for Education Poetry competition](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Inspirational teacher nominated for Community Champion award](#) (Gazette Live)

South Tyneside

- [School's out after heating woe](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Public asked for Hebburn library ideas](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Pupils inspired by swim champ Josef](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Time to turn the tables on Ofsted](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [End in sight for schools rebuild](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [Two-thirds of our schools are not good enough](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [School salon's a beautiful idea](#) (Shields Gazette)

Sunderland

- [Go-ahead for new £22million Sunderland College campus](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Pupils transported back to war time Wearside](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Nursery school gets top marks from inspectors](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Sunderland's £2million free nursery places boost](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Schoolboy chosen to perform at Nativity 2 premiere](#) (Sunderland Echo)

Redcar

- [Saltburn pupils show wall-to-wall support for X Factor star James Arthur](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Masterclass in song from operatic duo for Redcar pupils](#) (Gazette Live)

Regional

- [School Nativity Plays 2012: Chronicle readers' pictures](#) (Chronicle Live)

Top national education news

Teaching evolution key to free school funding deal

The Government has announced that from 2013, all free schools in England must teach evolution as a "comprehensive and coherent scientific theory". The introduction of the new rules follows scientists' concerns that free schools run by creationists might avoid teaching evolution. The article in the Guardian references Grindon Hall School in Sunderland.

- [Free schools must teach evolution, ministers announce](#) (Guardian)
- [Teaching evolution key to free school funding deal](#) (BBC News)
- [Free school in row over plans to scrap religious education](#) (Telegraph)

George Osborne plans new spending cuts 'to fund schools'

It is expected that tomorrow's autumn statement by Chancellor George Osborne will include the announcement of 1 billion pounds to go towards building 100 new free schools and academies, creating an additional 50,000 new school places.

The move comes alongside further spending cuts from most government departments which will be asked to save an extra 1% next year and a further 2% the following year to release money to be spent on capital projects.

- [George Osborne plans new spending cuts 'to fund schools'](#) (BBC News)

New primary school curriculum 'riddled with errors'

Leading scientists and mathematicians have criticised The Government for errors in the draft specification for the new primary curriculum.

Reports claim that a new science curriculum gets the process of breathing wrong and significantly underestimates the number of stars in our galaxy. Other mistakes include a suggestion that the cheetah is the fastest animal, despite the fact that birds are also animals and some can fly faster than a cheetah can run.

A Department for Education spokesman said: "We published draft programmes of study so that subject specialists could contribute and help us to create a National Curriculum which matches the best in the world. We will incorporate any comments on accuracy and hold a full public consultation on the revised drafts before they are finalised."

- [New primary school curriculum 'riddled with errors'](#) (Telegraph)

What else we learnt this week...

- [Maths taught by teachers with just a C-grade at GCSE](#)
- [2,000 primary pupils arrested for naughtiness](#)
- [Mobile phone 'textisms' can boost writing skills](#)
- [Schools entering students in double GCSEs in same subject to help grades](#)
- [Sir James Dyson warns over graduate engineer shortage](#)

Resources and Opportunities

Future Leaders School and Participant Recruitment for 2013 Cohort now open

Future Leaders is a leadership development programme for teachers with the talent to accelerate to Headship in 4 years and the commitment to improve children's' life chances.

Your school can get involved by:

- Offering a residency year – Future Leaders are looking for schools to host a Future Leader on your SLT for their first year on the programme.
- Supporting an existing member of staff – places are available for schools to nominate staff to join the programme and remain in your school for their residency year.

The first window for participant applications runs until **8 January 2013** and the second window runs from 9 January to 19 February 2013.

Please see further down this newsletter for details on a regional awareness session delivered by Future Leaders next week.

Assistance for Academies Applying for the Capital Maintenance Funding

In the run up to the 18 December 2012 deadline for applications for the ACMF, [Aura](#) are offering assistance for those academies applying this time around, those that applied last time around and were not successful, those that are applying for sums over £100k, and those that have a serious health, safety or environmental risk that could affect insurance renewal.

All academies open by or on 1 January 2013 are eligible to submit an application for up to two projects – either tackling building condition issues or expanding provision. The deadline for submitting applications is 18 December for academies converted before 30 September 2012, and 1 February 2013 for academies converting after 30 September 2012.

Aura works with clients to understand their visions and transform them into buildings and services. To date they have provided in excess of £280m of funding and delivered consultancy, design and construction services to schools in the North East. For further information on how Aura can assist you in your ACMF application please contact Marisa Nethercott on 0191 2236818 or email:m.nethercott@auranewcastle.com

Free two hour History Lesson for Key Stage 2 Learners

Newcastle United Foundation's new heritage project, Toon Times, would like to offer all Primary Schools across the region the opportunity to participate in a FREE two hour history lesson focussing on the heritage of Newcastle United.

The lesson will allow pupils to share and celebrate the heritage of the football club with a hands-on history experience examining artefacts from the Newcastle United archives and allow learners to focus on chronological order and form their own timeline of key events.

Teachers will also be provided with a CD-ROM loaded with numerous resources to remain engaged with history and the club. Ideal as part of a wider project or as a one off treat for learners to book please contact Gavin Ferry, Project Coordinator on gavin.ferry@nufc.co.uk or call or call 0191 201 8424

Design a Football Shirt - Competition to Win a Signed Newcastle Shirt

SCHOOLS NorthEast Commercial Supporter, First Class Supply and Training, are holding a competition to get local schools to design their "own" football shirt. The competition will be open to both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children. The winning entries will have their shirts designed and receive a signed Newcastle shirt.

Simply send your schools designs to daniel@1stclassteachers.co.uk or First Class Supply and Training, 131-133 Whitley Road, Whitley Bay, NE26 2ET

The closing date for entries is Wednesday 30 January 2013 and the winners will be informed by Friday 1 February 2013.

Events

Future Leaders: Regional Awareness Session – 11 December

Future Leaders will be running a Regional Awareness Session for interested participants and schools on Tuesday 11 December from 5pm to 7pm at All Saints College, West Denton Way, Newcastle, NE5 2SZ. The session will outline the programme, the application process, the benefits to participants and schools and a chance to hear from Senior Leaders already on the programme about their experiences.

If you would like to attend the session, register your interest in Future Leaders or discuss any elements of the programme further, please contact Matthew Robinson on 07824 536 047 or ormatthew.robinson@future-leaders.org.uk

Is Academy Conversion on Your 2013 "to-do" List? - 10 December, Sunderland & 12 December, Durham

To support local schools through the decision making process around academy conversion Law firm Samuel Phillips are hosting a couple of round table discussions. The sessions will be led by the people that are directly affected by the issues around academy conversion, with representatives from Samuel Phillips on hand to offer clarity on risks and share experience of running conversion projects.

These free events will take place between 4pm and 6pm on Monday 10 December at the National Glass Centre in Sunderland, and on Wednesday 12 December at Durham County Cricket Club. Afternoon tea will be served following the round table discussion giving you the opportunity to talk informally to fellow guests and event representatives.

To book online for the Sunderland event [please click here](#) and for the Durham event [please click here](#).

Woodham Academy Open day – 29 January 2013

For the last five years Woodham Academy in County Durham has been working with the Australian Consultancy, Group 8 Education. This collaboration has resulted in significant improvements in pupil engagement, behaviour, staff collaboration, achievement and most of all narrowing the gap.

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

Commercial Supporter EYPS is offering a one day course to develop the skills of school staff in supporting learners with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD).

The course, led by Educational Psychologist Rob Long, will explore 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.](#)

LCP Training Courses – January - March 2013

LCP have announced their training programme for the spring term which includes a wide range of courses such as: 'Being Fit and Ready for Ofsted', 'Setting Targets and Tracking Pupil Progress in Key Stages 1 and 2', 'The Quality of Teaching' and 'The Critical Link between School Self-Evaluation and Strategic Planning'.

The courses will take place on a range of dates between January and March 2013 at a variety of locations across the Midlands and the North of England. Prices start from £75. For more information follow this link: <http://www.lcp.co.uk/school-management/training> or contact Lucy Bush on (01926) 886914 to book a place.

Effective Classroom Observation - 11 December 2012 & 5 February 2013

Take part in a two day course where you will learn how to collect and record evidence to make secure judgements under the 2012 Ofsted framework. Along with methods for more rigorous evaluation of pupils' progress through work scrutiny, discussion with pupils and consideration of performance data,

you will also discuss how to ensure that feedback to teachers is developmental, constructive and productive and what Ofsted inspectors look for during inspections.

The event will take place at the Science Learning Centre North East and will cost £800 (+VAT). To book please contact Nicola Hall on 0191 3706200 or email n.l.hall@durham.ac.uk.

Number crunch

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

- 47,700 teachers left their jobs in the year 2010-11, up from 40,070 in 2009-10, according to Schools Minister David Laws (BBC News)
- Six primary school-aged children arrested each day (Howard League for Penal Reform)

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