

Subject: SCHOOLS NorthEast Weekly Update - Week 19



The future of our region is in school

WEEKLY UPDATE



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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
- Final chance to book on a conference from Achievement for All next week
- "Raising Standards through Curriculum Innovation" event from Aim Awards
- Details on Year 11 Discover Days from Newcastle University
- Information regarding Whole Education's Northern Conference
- North East Regional Conference for Governors

Focus on... Teaching and Learning Toolkit relaunched

Many of you will be familiar with the [Teaching and Learning Toolkit](#) (often referred to as the Pupil Premium Toolkit) through features on this newsletter, the seminar series we have recently held with one of the Authors, Rob Coe, or the packed sessions at the SCHOOLS NorthEast Summits in 2011 and 12. So you will be pleased to know that on Friday the Sutton Trust-Education Endowment Foundation launched a revised version of this popular resource including new research, updated analysis, a wider range of interventions and some added extras such as case studies, CPD guides, and support on evaluation.

The Toolkit is based on work by Durham University and summarises over 3,000 studies on the impact of a range of interventions, to provide a guide for teachers and school leaders as to which approaches are most cost effective. The resource has been widely used by schools to help in making decisions on the allocation of pupil premium spend and deciding which strategies will make the most difference to learning outcomes.

The Toolkit is a live resource that will be updated on a regular basis as findings from EEF-funded projects and other high-quality research become available. The new version of the Toolkit is fully interactive enabling you to quickly compare the effectiveness of different interventions based on both impact and cost and includes:

- The addition of eight new topics: aspiration interventions, behaviour interventions, collaborative learning, extended school time, mentoring, physical environment, social and emotional aspects of learning, and small group tuition.
- A full update on all existing topics to incorporate the publication of new research.
- The addition of [Videos and Case Studies](#) .

- Improved links to further reading and providers of professional development via the Teacher Development Trust's Good CPD Guide.
- A DIY guide to evaluation for schools

The new Toolkit adds to the list of approaches included in early versions that research shows are effective at boosting attainment, while comparing their relative cost effectiveness. The authors conclude that the following approaches can be worth the equivalent of four months' learning time to a school:

- Improved behaviour strategies, particularly those targeted at individual young people who are persistently misbehaving.
- Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programmes, which focus on improving student behaviour and attitudes, and on the ethos of the school.
- Small group tuition, which can be nearly as effective as individual tuition, but at a lower cost.

The Toolkit also notes that there is little evidence that investment in school buildings or environment has a direct impact on results with one strong exception: better air quality can help improve learning. Schools that leave their windows closed end up re-circulating too much carbon dioxide, which has been shown to have a detrimental effect on learning.

In addition to the new approaches added to the Toolkit, the revamped version also updates the evidence and assessment of interventions in previous editions. The press release accompanying the new versions highlights that "one of the key findings from the new research is that poor mentoring can be worse than no mentoring for vulnerable young people".

Research collated from "both sides of the Atlantic" shows the importance of having mentors whom young people can trust, perhaps successful people from a similar background, who have been given training and support.

The Toolkit says: "The impact of mentoring is variable, but on average it has tended to be low in terms of direct effect on academic outcomes. There is some evidence that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds are likely to benefit more (nearly double the impact). Other positive benefits have been reported in terms of attitudes to school, attendance and behaviour.

However, there are also risks associated with unsuccessful mentor pairings which may have a detrimental effect on the mentee, and the negative overall impacts seen in some studies should prompt caution."

With many schools now attempting to evaluate their own activities to gather evidence on effectiveness, the Education Endowment Foundation has also launched a [DIY evaluation guide](#) for teachers. This resource introduces the key principles of educational evaluation and provides guidance on how to conduct small-scale evaluations in schools.

Commenting on the relaunched Toolkit, Sir Peter Lampl, Chair of the Education Endowment Foundation and Sutton Trust, said: "Too often English education has been bedevilled by initiatives without evidence. The Toolkit helps teachers make the most of their resources to have the maximum impact on student results. It provides cautionary tales about the importance of getting programmes like mentoring right and positive suggestions on which strategies do most to boost attainment."

Kevan Collins, Chief Executive of the Education Endowment Foundation, added: "Educational improvement is about applying the knowledge we have and committing to learning more. The new Toolkit helps teachers and school leaders by providing clear information about a wide variety of potential strategies to improve learning. At a time when Ofsted and the Government are holding schools more accountable for the Pupil Premium, it will also help schools to ensure that they are making the most of their funding at a time of scarce public resources."

Lead author of the Toolkit, Professor Steve Higgins from the School of Education, Durham University, said: "Our research aims to help schools decide how to spend their money and time effectively to help

disadvantaged pupils using the best evidence available. It show what has, and importantly what has not, been effective in the past so will support schools making more effective choices.”

[Access the Toolkit here.](#)

Get involved:

The Education Endowment Foundation is asking for your suggestions for topics to be included in future editions of the Toolkit. If you have a topic suggestion, or any other comments or questions about the Toolkit, please contact Robbie Coleman at robbie.coleman@eefoundation.org.uk .

During discussions at the Pupil Premium Seminar events we recently held with Prof. Rob Coe, a number of schools across the region identified that they would like to undertake an action research project on the relative impact of different forms of feedback. We will be emailing all schools to see if you would like to be part of this initiative and arranging meetings in the very near future to design the project and funding bid. If you would like further details or to register your interest: email Beccy Earnshaw – r.earnshaw@schoolsnortheast.com

Further reading

[Teaching and Learning Toolkit relaunched](#) (EEF Website)

[Pupil Premium: How to spend it wisely](#) (Prof Coe's Presentation)

Top local news

Newcastle girls schools merger

Parents of independent schools Central Newcastle High and Church High were informed last night that the schools will be merging. The new school will be called Newcastle High School for Girls and will open in September 2014. The proposal is to redevelop the Church High site on Tankerville Terrace, in the heart of Jesmond, into a multi-million pound state-of-the-art facility for use as the Senior School and Sixth Form.

- [Newcastle girls' schools merger shocks parents and pupils](#) (Journal)
- [Parents told of Newcastle school merger by email!](#) (Chronicle)
- [Two independent girls' schools announce plans to merge](#) (Northern Echo)

Follow up from secondary performance tables

A number of schools have asked us for further information regarding the list of the 200 most improved schools as reported in last week's SCHOOLS NorthEast Special Update and the national and local media. We've therefore added a table to our website of the 15 North East schools that were included in the list. A special mention to Churchill Community College in North Tyneside that was accidentally missed off the list quoted last week!!

The list, produced by the Press Association, is based on a ranking of schools by the size of their improvement over the period 2009-2012 in the percentage of pupils who gained five A* to C-grades including English and maths in their GCSEs and equivalent qualifications.

[Click here](#) to view the table.

- [North East school league tables explored](#) (Journal)
- [Most improved category highlights exams progress by many North-East schools](#) (Northern Echo)

Local news by area

Darlington

- [Children dress up for healthy walk to school](#) (Northern Echo)
- [Rydal pupils prepare for walk to school with Willy Wonka](#) (Northern Echo)
- [Darlington school trials iPads in the classroom](#) (Northern Echo)

Durham

- [Burglars break into junior school in Peterlee](#) (Northern Echo)
- [Consultation on Durham free school plan](#) (Northern Echo)
- [Barnard Castle School students must raise £18,000 towards Borneo expedition](#) (Northern Echo)
- [Cash for school sports pitch](#) (Northern Echo)
- [School careers advice service "in a mess"](#) (Northern Echo)

Hartlepool

- [Pride of place for awards](#) (Hartlepool Mail)
- [Building on Olympic success](#) (Hartlepool Mail)
- [Athletic pupils fly the town's flag](#) (Hartlepool Mail)
- [School makes the grade again](#) (Hartlepool Mail)
- [Chance to join schools panels](#) (Hartlepool Mail)

Newcastle

- [Newcastle headteacher calls for major education system changes](#) (Journal Live)
- [GSA President speaks out about the future of education and encourages parents to debate and discuss opinions](#) (GSA)
- [St Mary's Comprehensive in talks to become Academy](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Newcastle Discovery School set to open in September](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Northumbria Uni lecturer's Holocaust play for set for House of Commons](#) (Journal)
- [Move to cut free travel for pupils at Newcastle faith schools](#) (Chronicle)

Middlesbrough

- [Business experts impressed with Teesside students](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Demand for Middlesbrough primary schools could outstrip supply](#) (Gazette Live)

Northumberland

- [Council leaders back Allendale Middle School closure](#) (Hexham Courant)
- [Haltwhistle school bids for academy status](#) (Hexham Courant)
- [Allendale Middle School to close this autumn](#) (Journal Live)
- [Whittonstall school governors underline opposition to opencast](#) (Journal Live)
- [School voice aims to be loud and clear](#) (Morpeth Herald)
- [Our school will not be sustainable, says head](#) (Northumberland Gazette)
- [GCSE and A-Level performance tables released](#) (Northumberland Gazette)
- [Fewer problems for schools and transport](#) (Northumberland Gazette)

North Tyneside

- [Holocaust survivor tells story to North Tyneside pupils](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Monkseaton High teacher sacked over exam cover-up](#) (Chronicle Live)

- [Trust selects principal for new academy](#) (News Guardian)
- [School gets top award for its safety](#) (News Guardian)

Redcar

- [Prior Pursglove College students talk of the horrors of Auschwitz](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Olympian dives in to meet with Saltburn students](#) (Gazette Live)

Stockton

- [Mum's fears after near miss outside Billingham school](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Yarm School yet to decide on planning appeal](#) (Gazette Live)
- [New staff help 'failing' Billingham school make progress](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Ofsted inspectors hail Thornaby Academy drive for improvement](#) (Gazette Live)
- [Inspectors hail progress at The Oak Tree Primary School, Stockton](#) (Gazette Live)

South Tyneside

- [Head's pride at school's Ofsted praise](#) (Shields Gazette)
- [School cook has appetite for final](#) (Shields Gazette)

Sunderland

- [Students enter the world of ballet](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Ex-Sunderland chairman Bob Murray installed as university chancellor](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Pupils get lesson from Holocaust survivor](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Plans to merge two Sunderland schools](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Remembering the victims of hatred](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Sunderland schools are on the up](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Academy system defended after redundancies announced at Sunderland school](#) (Sunderland Echo)
- [Sunderland academy makes '30' redundant](#) (Sunderland Echo)

Regional

- [Excellent results in North East school league tables 2012 + MAP](#) (Chronicle Live)
- [Campaigners fear a North East child poverty fiddle](#) (Journal)
- [Containers from North East schools set sail to help children in Gambia](#) (Journal)

Top national education news

Ofsted Chief voices fears for brightest pupils

Sir Michael Wilshaw, Ofsted's Chief Inspector, has ordered a "landmark report" into how state schools teach the most able students.

Wilshaw has warned that some pupils, who got top marks at primary school, were not doing as well at secondary school. "Such students ought to be pushed, as they would be at independent or grammar schools," he told the Sunday Telegraph.

- [Ofsted chief voices fears for brightest pupils](#)
- [Comprehensives 'failing to push bright pupils'](#)
- [State schools stopping brightest reaching their potential says Ofsted chief](#)

Apprenticeships remain obscured in schools

Skills organisation Semta (Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies) today announced a huge increase in engineering and manufacturing apprentices.

However, Semta has also warned that whilst the number of apprenticeships may be on the up, a lack of understanding and the skewed perceptions of some schools, pupils and parents mean apprenticeships can often be overlooked. A spokesman said; "Working with the UK's advanced manufacturing and engineering employers, we know that in many cases young people have very outdated perceptions of our sector. The reality is that engineering and manufacturing are crying out for talent: 82,000 engineers, scientists and technologists need to be recruited before 2016."

- [Apprenticeships remain obscured in schools](#) (The Manufacturer)
- [You're hired: Huge increase in engineering and manufacturing apprentices](#)

Nursery ratios raised 'to improve standards'

Nurseries and child-minders are to be allowed to look after more children, in a package ministers say will improve quality and cut costs. As part of the package, new qualifications for carers will be introduced including graduate-level Early Years Teachers, calls to bring back the Nursery Nurse Diploma, and the creation of Early Years Educators, backed by improved level 3 qualifications.

Children's Minister Elizabeth Truss said the proposals would make more childcare places available and reduce costs for parents in the "long term".

- [Nursery ratios raised to cut childcare costs](#) (BBC News)

What else we learnt this week...

- [Planning changes could see free schools in shops and offices](#)
- [Poor children need help with school entrance exams, says study](#)
- [Fury over lost London 2012 Games legacy as school sport funds dry up](#)
- [GCSE results set to accelerate drive to turn schools into academies](#)
- ['History lessons should be compulsory'](#)
- [School objects to 'dictatorial' instruction to become an academy](#)
- [Eight out of 10 young teachers feel undervalued and overworked](#)

Resources and Opportunities

Newcastle University's 'Centre for Learning and Teaching' Newsletter

The Centre for Learning and Teaching (CfLaT) aims to research learning and teaching in a range of contexts, particularly in schools and formal educational contexts, in order to develop understanding for those who want to improve the quality of education.

View their [latest newsletter here](#).

Year 11 Discover Days from Newcastle University

Newcastle University are offering a wide range of 'Discover Days', which aim to give Year 11 pupils an insight into some of the fascinating subjects that they can study. The sessions will not only be relevant to future study but also tie in with some of the wider themes your pupils encounter in your current studies.

If you would like to publicise this event to your students Newcastle University has flyers and posters available. For promotional material or if you would like to book a group of your students onto a Discover Day please e-mail emma.peak@ncl.ac.uk For further information please [click here](#).

Your help needed: Education Funding Agency Survey

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) provides revenue and capital funding for education for learners between the ages of 3 and 19, or the ages of 3 and 25 for those with learning difficulties and disabilities. They are seeking feedback from schools and need your help. The information gained is invaluable to them and will help them provide the best possible service. [Click here](#) to take part now.

Events

5, 6 & 7 February: 'Improving the aspirations, access and achievement of children and young people' - Achievement for All half-day conferences (Middlesbrough/ Newcastle/ Durham)

Attend one of three free half-day conferences by Achievement for All, the award winning national programme now working in over 1,200 schools nationwide, to improve the aspirations, access and achievement of children and young people. Achievement for All is an evidence-based programme, backed by...[Read more](#)

7 February: Raising Standards through Curriculum Innovation – Aim Awards (Darlington)

This event will demonstrate personalised tracking that can be used to show progress through FL qualifications in a world without SCAAT points give practical examples of how qualifications can be used to innovate within the curriculum...[Read more](#)

February Half Term: Holiday Camps from ACG Sports

ACG Sports provides action-packed school holiday courses for children between the ages of 5 and 11, which keep kids busy whilst providing busy parents with affordable childcare. The cost of the camps is no more than £5 per child per day and the camps will be taking place at various locations across the North East. For more information contact 0191 5194322 or [click here](#)

28 February: Whole Education's Northern Conference 'Journeys to Outstanding' (Bradford)

If you're looking for a practice-focused event which will give you the chance to hear from Whole Education Pathfinder schools and education leaders, then you should attend Whole Education's Northern Conference. Delegates will also have the opportunity to attend a range of workshops led by schools doing pioneering work with Whole Education Partners around key themes.

'Journeys to Outstanding' takes place on 28 February at Cedar Court Hotel in Bradford. The cost for attendance at this event is £195 but SCHOOLS NorthEast members can secure a 25% discount. Please quote SchoolsNE25 when booking. For more information [please click here](#). To book please also contact Jo Dale on 0207 250 8053 or [book online](#).

28 February: Supporting My Teen To Learn Lead Practitioner

UFA in partnership with St Aidans Church of England Academy is bringing you a chance to train your parents on how to support their teens at home. The UFA Lead Practitioner programme enables staff to attend, and gain skills to deliver '[Supporting My Teen to Learn](#)' repeatedly back in school. By equipping parents with the skills they need to effectively support their teens; overall achievement and attainment will improve.

The content of the programme covers topics such as Getting Ready to Learn, My Teenager's Amazing Brain, A Mindset for Learning and Life, I'm a Unique Learner, The Power of Positive

Relationships and Supporting your teenager with revision and exam preparation. For only £145 per person, you can train to deliver this innovative programme in your school/organisation. Contact Leanne Brownsword, 01325 373 770 or email l.brownsword@staidansacademy.org.uk

2 March: North East Regional Conference for Governors

The National Governors Association will be holding a free regional conference in Durham between **10am and 2.30pm** on Saturday 2 March.

Speakers include Tom Grieveson, Ofsted, Sam Ellis, ASCL's Funding Specialist and Les Walton, Chair of The Northern Education Trust. View a [draft agenda](#) here. To register your interest [please click here](#).

19 March: Providing a Whole Education at Cramlington Learning Village

Looking to be inspired? Whole Education will be hosting an event with Cramlington Learning Village; a school with a reputation for innovation in teaching and learning that has been recognised as "Outstanding" by Ofsted three times in succession. This one-day event gives you the opportunity to get closer to understanding Cramlington Learning Village's approach to providing a whole education. You will also learn about what the Whole Education Network can offer you.

The event will take place on Tuesday 19 March between 9am-2.45pm (with lunch provided) at Cramlington Learning Village. Any SCHOOLS NorthEast members are welcome to attend the event at the Network schools rate of £45. Contact rosie@wholeeducation.org / 020 7250 8422 to book your place.

SAVE THE DATE: 3 May: School Business Manager Conference – SCHOOLS NorthEast

SCHOOLS NorthEast is arranging a conference to help School Business Managers access the support and advice they need and to create opportunities for collaboration with colleagues and share best practice. Please email r.clegg@schoolsnortheast.com to register your interest.

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