

Ashfield Excellence Cluster

Minutes of Gifted & Talented Co-ordinators' Meeting

Friday 14th July 2006, 9:30am
Matthew Holland School

Present

Alison Burdass (Broomhill)
Jaine Mould (Edgewood)
Wendy Hemmingsley (Holgate)
Helen Bentley (Matthew Holland)

Sarah Senior (Quarrydale)
Penny Mumford (Morven Park)
Mark Golden (Kirkby College)

Dianne Munro (Coxmoor)
Nicky Peart (Ashfield)
Ian Watson (Matthew Holland)

Apologies

Elaine Lester (Daneswood)
Kerry Norman (Edgewood)
Rachel Harwood (Sutton Centre)

Rhian Taylor (Whyburn)
Beverley Hutchinson (Holly Hill)

Steve Abbott (Beardall St.)
Emma Lewis (Annesley)

Minutes of Last Meeting

These were agreed.

Matters Arising

None.

Arts Festival Evaluation

Negatives

- Because items ran concurrently it was not possible to see everything.
- Rehearsal time? (Communication blip identified ...)
- Timing? Clashed with residentials, sports days, productions etc (Original rationale was to coincide with the Nottinghamshire Good Practice Event.)

Positives

- Well organised – finished exactly on time.
- Well attended.
- Organisation nicely informal with a great atmosphere.
- The pupils enjoyed being able to move from one item to another.
- Large numbers stayed to watch the last acts in the Hall – wonderful finale!
- Attended by families who were not directly involved.
- More pupils involved than previously.
- The Quarrydale jugglers are being invited to run demonstrations/workshops in a couple of primary schools. (Contact Sarah Senior if you're interested.)
- Pupils from different schools working collaboratively on items (Holgate, Edgewood, Broomhill drama project) was a particularly exciting venture.

Thanks

All present thanked Wendy Hemmingsley and her colleagues at Holgate for their efforts, patience and sustained good humour (!) in organising this event.

Future

The potential to extend the model of cross-school working with a specialist (possibly Music in the first instance) working with pupils was explored.

Co-ordinators gave A McC some possible contacts.

- A McC to explore this: specialists to work with groups, funding?

Airborne Challenge Evaluation

Pupils involved in this had gained a great deal from the experience, although it was felt that the final was a very long day for primary pupils.

Discussion of other organisations, eg Formula Schools, providing similar 'challenge' type activities followed.

- Please let A McC know if you have details of any that you have used/heard of.
- Ask A McC if you need details of Airborne Challenge for your school.

Sharing Good Practice

Wendy Hemmingsley distributed copies of her '*Gifted and Talented – Teaching for Learning*' guide for staff. This includes outcomes of a questionnaire done with G&T students as well as information about differentiation, thinking skills, underachievement and resources.

Sarah Senior described her '*World Cup Challenge*' at Quarrydale. Departments invited pupils to engage in a series of creative and open-ended tasks relating to the World Cup, with prizes awarded for the best entries.

- Sarah to e-mail copies to A McC for distribution at next meeting.

Mark Golden recommended the following *for team-building and problem-solving* activities:

The Mill Adventure Base (AALA Licence no. R0665 L3956)
Kings Mill Reservoir
Off Coxmoor Road
Sutton-in-Ashfield
NG18 5LA

A McC described a primary school initiative whereby '*homework*' was a half-termly invitation for pupils/families to choose activities from a single list relating to a whole-school theme (eg Dinosaurs). Bloom's Taxonomy was used to devise the activities.

- A McC to ask for permission to reproduce the list and share at the next meeting.

Wendy, Sarah and Mark shared their recent experiences of *OfSTED* inspections. Assessing impact is key.

Carnegie Challenge

Experiences of this in the previous year varied and possible reasons for it aired – how engaging were the books? It was agreed that a Cluster Reading Challenge involving Years 6 and 7 (good contribution to transition strategies) was a good idea.

- Jane Mould, Sarah Senior and Wendy Hemmingsley to set up a working party.

INSET

Barry Hymer was confirmed as the speaker for this Cluster G&T Co-ordinators' Conference which will take place on Thursday 1st February 2007 (venue to be confirmed). Cluster Headteachers have been given the date. There was a positive response to the idea of inviting colleagues from other schools in the area.

- A McC to talk to John Morris about involving other schools.
- Ian Watson and Allison Burdass to help A McC to liaise with Barry Hymer about the programme.

Next Steps

There was lengthy discussion about the challenge of maintaining focus and momentum in hard- worked colleagues in schools. Co-ordinators were reassured that their experiences reflected those in other schools. There was a consensus that the classroom had to be the main focus and colleagues shared issues around this, in particular the need to take into account differing contexts and priorities in schools, as well as the varying roles and responsibilities of G&T Co-ordinators.

The use of Teaching Assistants to support G&T pupils was discussed and it was felt that G&T training for Teaching Assistants might be a good idea.

- A McC to talk to John Morris about TA training

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 16th October, 9:30am at The Holgate School

Everyone thanked Mark for hosting the meeting at Kirkby College. A McC thanked everyone for their time and for making her feel so welcome in her first term as AEC Project Director. She wished them all a pleasant and well-deserved Summer break.