

Ashfield Excellence Cluster

Minutes of Gifted & Talented Co-ordinators' Meeting

Wednesday 18th October 2006, 9:30am
The Holgate School

Present

Alison Burdass (Broomhill)
Jaine Mould (Edgewood)
Steve Abbott (Beardall St. College)

Sarah Senior (Quarrydale)
Penny Mumford (Morven Park)
Emma Reckless (Annesley)

Rachel Harwood (Sutton Centre)
Wendy Hemmingsley (Holgate)
Ian Watson (Selston Arts and Community College)

Apologies

Kerry Norman (Edgewood)
Nicky Peart (Ashfield)

Beverley Hutchinson (Holly Hill)
Di Munro (Coxmoor)

Mark Golden (Kirkby College)

Minutes of Last Meeting

These were agreed.

Matters Arising

Music Festival

John Auty has been given a broad outline of the format for a Cluster Music Festival in order to establish whether the Arts Support Service can help eg with peripatetic teachers. A rough time scale of Spring planning, Summer/Autumn rehearsal, November concert was agreed in principle.

- A McC to make enquiries of Nottingham Choral Trust to see if they could support
- A McC to reserve AST time for Summer and Autumn terms
- A planning committee to be organised for Spring term.

Sharing Good Practice

Copies of Guide for Teachers, World Cup Challenge, Bloom's Taxonomy homework project were distributed. The homework project has been taken up by Edgewood (Jaine reported it had been very motivating for the children) and Sarah has been using it for Y7 history homework assignments.

Carnegie Challenge

- Cluster Reading Challenge planning group (Jaine, Wendy and Sarah) to meet at 3:30pm on Tuesday 9th November at Quarrydale.

G& T Conference Eastwood Hall (1.2.07)

Some Cluster Schools are sending two people.

- G&T Co-ordinators to ask at school if second person wants to attend and let Annie know.
- Alison, Ian and Annie to meet to discuss programme at 8:30am on 21st November at Broomhill.

Teaching Assistant Training

Offers of support in this have been received from Gill Haslam and Steve Abbott. However, co-ordinators were not sure about the audience for it. In secondaries teaching assistant time was almost exclusively reserved for pupils needing learning support, and many primary teaching assistants had already been involved in whole-school training in HOTS, questioning etc.

- A McC to ask Headteachers' views

Quality Standards

The focus at national and local level for G&T is going to be the quality standards. Further copies were distributed and time was given at the end of the meeting for separate primary and secondary colleagues to read and discuss implications for them in their own schools.

Action Plans

A McC is finding out how many School Development/Improvement Plans make explicit reference to Gifted and Talented provision. There was discussion about levels of planning in these documents. In some schools they incorporated detailed action plans; in others separate action plans were needed to underpin the strategies outlined in the whole-school plan.

- All Co-ordinators to ensure that Annie has copies of Action Plans – in whatever format.

Sharing Good Practice

Morven Park

Penny reported that the Happy Puzzle Company had gone down very well. Some Y2 pupils from Coxmoor had joined them on the day:

www.happypuzzle.co.uk

For up to 180 children per day the costs are as follows:-

1st Day = £570 + VAT (plus overnight accommodation the night before in a Travel Lodge or similar)

2nd Day = £490 + VAT (plus overnight accommodation the night in a Travel Lodge or similar)

Y4 and Y5 are involved in making a video through work with Creative Partnerships.

Beardall Street

Steve went through the process of preparing for assessment for the NACE Challenge Award. In spite of the time needed to collect together all the evidence, he felt that the preparation had been a worthwhile process and had impacted positively on practice.

There was discussion about measuring 'talent'.

- A McC to distribute details of criteria at the next meeting

Jaine asked that we share ideas about working with parents.

- A McC to include this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Teaching Assistants have been running 'Thinking Clubs', withdrawing small groups of pupils from occasional assemblies to undertake tasks such as the 'Out of the Box' activities. The children really enjoyed it and it was adding to Teaching Assistants' confidence and job satisfaction.

Annesley

Emma described how she was incorporating a G&T element into the work on writing using a professional playwright that Annesley was doing with Creative Partnerships.

They were also using VCOP (a self-assessment tool for pupils from Push on Writing from Read On Write Away (www.rowa.org.uk/CoursesWorkers0-16)).

Edgewood

Jaine described Edgewood's Challenge Club challenge for this term which involved making a profit on a stall at the Christmas Fair.

They were also having Cultural Week in which they were going to promote G&T provision, linking it with their involvement in the Ablame project.

Holgate

Wendy explained how they were using FFT data to target groups of underachieving G&T pupils in Years 10 and 11 for trips to universities (Oxford, Cambridge, Sheffield).

Holgate had also employed someone to support Wendy in G&T provision and this is enabling them to start one-to-one mentoring for some underachievers. They are also planning to use local business links as motivation for pupils and are putting together a directory.

Some pupils had been involved in a small-piece engineering masterclass at National School (an Aimhigher project).

A McC distributed a copy of 'Thinking Keys', a prompt for planning.

AOB

A McC asked for issues that Co-ordinators felt should be fed back to DfES at a conference she is attending in November and the following were suggested:

- The 'quota' system and the negative implications in terms of varying standards between schools.
- Do we need a label at all? Yes, in order to raise the profile? No, good teaching reaches all groups.
- Does a label introduce ethical dilemmas - does it promote inequality of opportunity (ie decisions have to be made about cut-off points)? How useful is it in partnerships with parents and pupils themselves?
- Funding? Time is needed!
- In the absence of ring-fenced funding and with local authority support being spread so thinly with officers having numerous areas of strategic responsibility, where is the specialist/operational support going to come from?

A McC forgot to thank Wendy and Holgate for the hospitality (and Kit Kats!) but would like to do so through these minutes. Sorry Wendy!

Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 4th December 9:30 – 11:30 at Quarrydale School