

# Ashfield Excellence Cluster

## Minutes of Gifted & Talented Co-ordinators' Meeting

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007, 9:30am  
Selston Arts and Community College

### Present

Sarah Kahler (Annesley)  
Ian Watson (SACC)  
Kerry Norman (Edgewood)  
Jaine Mould (Edgewood)

Wendy Hemmingsley (Holgate)  
Sue Dickinson (Daneswood)  
Phil Smith (Sutton Centre)

Mike Endy (Holgate)  
Penny Mumford (Morven Park)  
Annie McClimont (AEC)

### Apologies

Carolyn McGeagh (Hillside)  
Di Munro (Coxmoor)

Alison Burdass (Broomhill)  
Beverley Hutchinson (Holly Hill)

Sarah Senior (Quarrydale)  
Nicky Peart (Ashfield)

### Welcome to new people

Mike from Holgate, who will be taking over from Wendy  
Phil from Sutton Centre (representing Kate Lake)

### Minutes of last meeting

Agreed

### Matters arising

See agenda items

### Reading Challenge Evaluation

Informal feedback is extremely positive. A number of the accompanying members of staff have contacted the team (Jaine, Wendy and Sarah) to thank them for their work in organising such an exciting day for more able readers in Y6 and Y7. All went smoothly and the pupils were totally engaged – as evidenced by their excellent behaviour throughout the day. Observations of the mixed-school teams proved that the element of the project aimed at transition and building confidence when meeting new people from receiving secondary schools was successful.

Formal evaluation sheets were distributed.

- A McC to make sure that colleagues not in attendance at the meeting receive copies of the evaluation sheets..
- Coordinators to ensure that these are distributed (one each per pupil and involved member of staff), completed and returned to Jaine at Edgewood before the end of term.

Wendy, Jaine and Sarah to send invoices to AMcC for the transport and resources costs.

A decision about whether to hold a similar event next year will be made in September. If it does go ahead, it will be before the Easter holiday. This was the original time planned for this year but difficulties in getting the books meant it had to be put back. Earlier planning should overcome this as a potential problem.

- Coordinators to get a decision on whether their schools want to be involved before the next meeting.
- A McC to request funding from AEC Partnership Board

Jaine, Wendy and Sarah were formally thanked for all their hard work and dedication in making the Reading Challenge happen.

### Music Festival Update

The first round of NCT workshops has taken place. Initial feedback is that these have been extremely well received in the primary schools with pupils and teachers commenting very positively.

News from the secondaries is rather mixed and not as positive, with some problems around communication and engagement (pupils and staff).

The next step is to organise the group workshops for September. A letter will be going out to lead teachers in the next week or so, and it will be copied to G&T Coordinators and Headteachers.

A planning committee has been formed and this group will visit The Albert Hall in September to deal with organisational/logistical matters!

## **Training Update**

### Lead Teacher Programme

The G&T Lead Teacher programme is due to be rolled out to all schools in the Autumn Term. DfES expects that all secondary schools and all groups of primaries will have a G&T Lead Teacher. Training will be available. Initial information from Nottinghamshire (yet to be confirmed) is that: training will be available for a lead teacher in *all* schools (primaries to have the choice whether to have their own or share with neighbouring schools); those who have completed the Oxford Brookes training will be deemed to be appropriately trained to be a lead teacher but will be invited to 'update' (some elements of the new training are different). It is thought that a letter will be going out to Headteachers shortly.

G&T Coordinators are advised to have discussions with their Headteacher/Line Manager about this.

### NAGTY Nutshells

These are 20 minute on-line tutorials around G&T provision and are accessible free via the NAGTY website [www.nagty.ac.uk](http://www.nagty.ac.uk). There is a wide range: primary, secondary, cross-phase, whole school, subject based etc. The list is being added to each month. They are well worth investigating and could be used for individual CPD or for staff meetings etc.

## **Sharing Good Practice**

### SAPERE Training

Jaine and Kerry fed back on the two-day SAPERE Philosophy for Children course that they recently attended. It was an exhausting but very rewarding two days. The course is accredited (they have to engage in a minimum number of communities of enquiry and then lead some back in school) and the tutor follows up and supports after the face-to-face training. The cost is £200 (plus supply/expenses etc)

### Creative Partnerships at Annesley

Sarah from Annesley described a CP project they engaged in recently, aimed at building a week's learning from a mystery 'object' built by an artist in the school 'quad'. No lesson planning took place before the event (a disconcerting experience for many, terrifying for some!) and the week was built around the children's questions and interest relating to the 'object', which was in fact an old-fashioned tent filled with artefacts.

It was a very interesting example of planning the curriculum around an introductory 'event' designed to stimulate interest and discussion.

### Creative Partnerships at Edgewood

Edgewood have worked with a CP artist on making a film (partly for their eco-school project and also for their Ablame involvement) entitled 'What we are leaving behind'.

## **Looking forward to 07/08**

Coordinators were asked to give some thought as to how the Excellence Cluster could further support them from September '07.

Penny suggested that there could be more of a focus on KS1.

We will be discussing this at our next meeting in the Autumn Term, so please come prepared with some ideas. It could be for collaborative work or it could be that you feel you would like some individual support...

## **AOB**

Colleagues wished Wendy well in her new post in Oxfordshire, and Kerry well in her new post at Kimberley Primary.

A McC wished all G&T Coordinators a relaxing and well-deserved Summer break!

## **Date of next meeting:**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1:30 at Selston Arts and Community College