

# Ashfield Excellence Cluster

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

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006, 9:30am  
Quarrydale School

### Present

Alison Burdass (Broomhill)	Sarah Senior (Quarrydale)	Rachel Harwood (Sutton Centre)
Jaine Mould (Edgewood)	Kerry Norman (Edgewood)	Penny Mumford (Morven Park)
Wendy Hemmingsley (Holgate)	Beverley Hutchinson (Holly Hill)	Di Munro (Coxmoor)
Mark Golden (Kirkby College)	Steve Abbott (Beardall St.)	Emma Reckless (Annesley)
Annie McClimont (AEC)		

### Apologies

Nicky Peart (Ashfield)                      Ian Watson (Selston Arts and Community College)

### Minutes of Last Meeting

These were agreed and it was noted that they would shortly be available on the website.

### Matters Arising

#### Music Festival

AST time is reserved. Nottingham Choral Trust contact made. Discussions with John Auty are continuing.

- G&T Co-ordinators need to have discussions back at school in order to identify who will be the lead teacher from each school.

#### Reading Challenge

The working party met and information about the Reading Challenge has gone out. Funding has been agreed. To date 10 schools are involved.

- All schools to let Jaine know of involvement asap
- Sarah to organise book ordering

#### G& T Conference Eastwood Hall (1.2.07)

Programme decided. This conference will take place in lieu of Spring Term meetings. However, there will be a short business meeting at 8:45am at Eastwood Hall before the conference begins to update on the Reading Challenge and the Music Festival.

- G&T Co-ordinators to arrive at Eastwood Hall in time for business meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

### Quality Standards Audit

Time was allocated in the meeting for Co-ordinators to complete an audit of practice in their schools against the National Quality Standards. A summary sheet was submitted so that A McC can collate the findings for the Excellence Cluster and use it to identify good practice and common areas for development, and also to plot progress.

- A McC to contact G&T Co-ordinators not present at the meeting to get this information for their schools.
- Any outstanding Action Plans – in whatever format – to A McC asap

### Working with Parents

Co-ordinators discussed their various approaches to working with parents. All wanted openness and honesty in the relationship, depended on parents to give them information about their children's achievements outside school and wanted to encourage parental aspiration. However, there were shared concerns about telling parents their children were in the 'gifted and talented' cohort because: it was in the school context and might not be so elsewhere; labelling could be damaging for individuals (fear of failure in high achievers, lack of resilience etc) and also for families (siblings getting/not getting identified); removing the label could also be damaging. All chose their words with care, being clear about the school context. Some used terms other than 'gifted' eg 'more able' as it was felt that true 'giftedness' was in fact very rare and use of the term ran the risk of giving parents and students potentially misleading information. All terms used were open to a variety of interpretations. A good idea for getting information from home about primary pupils' outside interests and activities was to use the first homework of the year eg 'All About Me' of something similar. This came back when a form for parents might not have.

## **Sharing Effective Practice**

### Kirkby College

For Children in Need, talented students, working with an AST, did a video/stills presentation on the school website followed by a 'blog'. This was a Technology G&T enrichment activity, and pupils also evaluated each other's work using the internet.

### Edgewood

Cultural week provided an opportunity for staff to observe pupils in different contexts. The week had a geographical focus, pupils worked in mixed age groups and staff planned using Bloom's Taxonomy.

### Holgate

Holgate are using FFT data to identify potential A/A\* in all Y11 subjects.

They are also part of the Oxford Ambassadors Scheme, whereby the school identifies 6 potential 'ambassadors' and then Oxford make the final selection. The pupil is then invited to special events etc with the idea that s/he takes the message back into school. The response from the pupil so far has been ambivalent. It was felt that this was a quite a big 'ask' of a lone pupil in a school.

Holgate are also part of the NAGTY GOAL project (along with Quarrydale and Magnus). Y10 pupils from these schools have been selected for funding in order to access NAGTY Summer Schools and Saturday Courses.

They will go to an introductory day at Warwick on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

### Beardall Street

Steve had survived the first round of his NACE Challenge Mark assessment. He described the process as very thorough!

The following were distributed:

- Posters for each school showing the National Quality Standards
- Booklets from Creative Generation on identifying and providing for talent in the arts
- Copies of TES articles on ROWA and Philosophy for Children

## **AOB**

A McC fed back on the DfES G&T conference, and distributed a summary of the key messages. How the Local Authority roll-out of the Leading Teacher initiative would impact on schools, especially the primary schools, was a concern.

- A McC to take this issue to G&T Development Group.

Sarah was thanked for her hospitality and the festive treats.

## **Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 8:45am at Eastwood Hall.

Agenda Items: Reading Challenge, Music Festival.

Followed by the G&T Conference from 9:30am – 4:00pm

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