

Welcome to the new electronic Parent Council Newsletter from the National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFS). This replaces the previous newsletters by Lorraine Sanda, National Parent Involvement Co-ordinator. The newsletter will be produced by NPFS in partnership with LTS and will continue to be used to update you with developments on *Curriculum for Excellence*. Lorraine will continue to support and advise us.

If you have suggestion for features or articles you would like to see included in future newsletters then let us know.

Latest figures show that Parent Councils have been established in 99% of our primary schools and 98% of our secondary schools. We would like to hear from you about what you are doing in your area and how we can support you.

Regards

Iain Ellis
Chair, NPFS



Irene Russell
Development Officer, LTS
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A date for your diary

Sat 26 March 2011

Parents as Partners: Sharing Good Practice Event
Dunblane Hydro

There will be workshops covering a range of ways parents are involved in their children's learning. Charles Desforges will speak about the impact of parental involvement on attainment.

More details to follow.

To book a place email: I.murray@LTScotland.org.uk

National Parent Forum Scotland

The Forum held its first conference at Bishopbriggs Academy on Saturday 30 October 2010. The theme was *Curriculum for Excellence*.

Read more about the conference and the presentations on www.LTScotland.org.uk/parentzone



Development of New Qualifications

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has been working with teachers, colleges, universities, parents and employers to develop the new qualifications.

They have produced a draft outline for the new qualifications. This gives the proposed content of the qualifications and also identifies the skills and knowledge that will be developed by learners.

For more information on assessment and qualifications visit the **SQA website**. You can also read the factfile 'Assessment and Qualifications' on the Parentzone website:

www.LTScotland.org.uk/parentzone/resources/index.asp.



Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence milestones in 2011

The Chair of the Curriculum for Excellence Management Board has written to all heads of establishments. In the letter, dated 21 January 2011, he highlights the great progress there has been in the implementation of *Curriculum for Excellence* in pre-school centres, primary schools, secondary schools and colleges. He points out that increased information and working in partnership with parents will improve parental awareness and confidence in *Curriculum for Excellence*.

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/cfeinaction/LtrCfEprogress210111

Parentzone

LTS is delighted to announce the launch of the new-look Parentzone website. The site has been updated to reflect the continued developments in *Curriculum for Excellence*.

We welcome your comments, ideas and feedback, which will help us to ensure that we meet all our users' needs. If you have a specific enquiry about Parentzone, please contact a member of our team at parentzone@LTScotland.org.uk. We will ensure you receive a prompt reply.

If you would like to put the Parentzone logo on to your school website as a direct link to the site then contact Irene Russell.

i.russell@LTScotland.org.uk

Additional Support Needs

The amendments to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 came into force on 14 November 2010. These aim to strengthen some duties and clarify some parts of the Act.

To read about these changes and look at the revised parents' guide, visit the Enquire website:

www.enquire.org.uk



School Handbook Consultation

With the introduction of *Curriculum for Excellence*, there is a need for the school 'handbook' to be refreshed and updated, and to ensure that the information schools provide is relevant and helpful for parents. The consultation will run until 14 March 2011. Engagement events have been taking place around the country to find out what information parents and carers need and want in the school handbook.

If you would like to attend one of the remaining events and share your ideas, please contact Leanne Gulisano at leanne.gulisano@scotland.gsi.gov.uk as soon as possible. Leanne can also be contacted on 0131 244 7244 if you have any queries.

If you are unable to attend an event but would still like to contribute to the review, there is an online questionnaire which you can fill in at: <https://web.questback.com/scottishgovernment/schoolhandbookconsultation/>

Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme

The Scottish Government is introducing a new membership scheme. This will replace and improve upon the current disclosure arrangements for people who work with vulnerable groups. The scheme is expected to go live on 28 February this year.

You will find more information about the scheme on Parentzone. There are useful resources for parents and Parent Council members to help them decide whether a post may or may not be within the scope of PVG Scheme membership.

The Central Registered Body in Scotland provides free disclosure checks, guidance, advice and support to voluntary sector organisations.





Hunt on for 2011 stars of education

The Scottish Education Awards 2011 were launched by the Education Secretary, Michael Russell, on Friday 19 November. Also attending was West Dunbartonshire representative of the National Parent Forum Scotland Iain Ellis, who said:

'It's great to see the important role that parents play in supporting their schools, and their children's learning is being recognised.'

This year sees three new awards introduced including the Partnership for Learning Award, which may be of particular interest to Parent Councils. This award recognises the partnerships that work together to make an outstanding contribution to children and young people's learning through *Curriculum for Excellence*.

To make a nomination, visit the **Scottish Education Awards website**.

Nominations are open until Friday 4 March 2011.



The McCormac Review of the McCrone Agreement

Plans for a review of the agreement on teacher employment were announced by Education Secretary Michael Russell. It will examine a range of issues including whether the agreement is suited to the delivery of *Curriculum for Excellence* and whether it is delivering the benefits that were intended for both teachers and pupils.

www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/01/28091720

The Donaldson Review

At the request of Scottish Government there has been a recent Review of Teacher Education in Scotland. You can see the report and its main recommendations. These will be considered by Ministers in discussion with all the main partners. Visit the Review of Teacher Education in Scotland website to read 'Teaching Scotland's Future' and press release.

www.reviewofteachereducationinscotland.org.uk



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