

A message from John Richards, Director of Children's Services

I am pleased to have an opportunity to write a few words in your newsletter. There has been a change of leadership in the Council and in cabinet representation for Children's Services. Cllr John Holdich is our new member for Education, Skills and University. I am sure that many of you will meet him over the next few months.



John Richards

This is the time of year when exam results become known. By the end of August we will know how Peterborough's children and young people have performed in Key Stages 1 & 2, GCSEs and A levels. In September I will be sharing these results with Chairs of Governors and setting the scene for the year to come.

Being a governor is a very responsible post to hold and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your dedication and hard work.



Councillor
John Holdich

Ofsted Inspection Changes

The Ofsted inspection process changes on 1st September 2009. The new framework now includes:

- a higher focus on the governance of the school;
- the introduction of a new school self-evaluation form (SEF);
- new judgement on the effectiveness of safeguarding procedures and the promotion of equal opportunity/tackling discrimination. If the school is judged to be inadequate in both these strands of the overall effectiveness is likely to be judged inadequate.

For further details about the new framework and completion of the new SEF follow the link from www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance.

We also recommend that governing bodies expecting an Ofsted inspection in the next 18 months should attend the following training session. This will cover the new framework as well as the governing body's role in the process.

To book a place, ring 01733 863694 or e-mail: governor.development@peterborough.gov.uk

	Date	Venue	Time
Ofsted Inspection: The Governors' Role (XOIF/01)	Thursday 1 October 2009	Deafblind UK	7.00pm - 9.00pm



Enhancing the Healthy Schools Programme

Over the past ten years, Healthy Schools has become one of the most successful government initiatives in schools. The National Healthy Schools Programme is on target to not only meet, but exceed the Government's goal for all schools to be working towards National Healthy School Status (NHSS) and 75% to have achieved NHSS by December 2009. In Peterborough 87% of schools have achieved NHSS.



From autumn 2009 schools that have gained NHSS will be invited to participate in an enhanced Healthy Schools Programme. This enhanced programme is an outcomes based model for improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people and will involve a mixture of school based, local and national priorities, which will be flexibly developed

by schools in conjunction with key partners. It will provide universal and targeted health interventions.

Schools will be expected to maintain the universal provision established through achieving NHSS by completing an online tool that will be referred to as the 'Annual check'.

They will be guided through enhancement using a 'Health and Wellbeing improvement tool' which enables them to plan, record and monitor their ongoing programme towards achieving meaningful outcomes. They will continue to be fully supported through the local Healthy Schools Programme.

This is an excellent time for governors to become involved in their school's Healthy Schools activities if they are not already doing so, through membership in the task group, identifying priorities and supporting the achievement of outcomes within the school's action plan.



"The fact that schools are so enthusiastic about this programme is because its ethos sits very much at ease with the reason why teachers, head teachers, nurses, and the broader school workforce do what they do."

Dr Will Cavendish, Director of Health and Wellbeing at Department of Health.

Contact: Gaynor Mansell, Healthy Schools/PSHE Co-ordinator

Tel: 01733 863699 Email: gaynor.mansell@peterborough.gov.uk

Inclusion Charter Mark Awards for 2009

This is the fourth year of the Peterborough Inclusion Charter Mark and nine schools have met the high standard and achieved the award for 2009 - 2012. The award is given for three years and this year six schools are being re-accredited and three schools are being awarded for the first time. The Peterborough Inclusion Charter Mark was developed over several years by officers from the then Learning and Standards team working together with a group of school representatives.

The motivation for developing the Inclusion Charter Mark was to be able to reward and celebrate the excellent work that schools and early year's settings do to ensure the inclusiveness of their communities for children and young people from birth to 18 years together with all the adults involved in the school community. The process for being awarded the Charter Mark is annually reviewed by the Charter Mark team together with the moderators who have carried out the process, it is a very rigorous process with high expectations and all schools who successfully achieve the standard can rightly feel proud of themselves.

The successful schools for 2009 - 2012 are:

Bushfield Community College	re-accreditation
Heltwate Special School	re-accreditation
Braybrook Primary School	re-accreditation
Southfields Infant school	re-accreditation
Southfields Junior School	re-accreditation
Caverstede Early Years Centre	re-accreditation



Tricia Keogh presenting awards.

Longthorpe Primary School	new award
Newborough Primary school	new award
St Thomas More Primary School	new award

The ceremony for the presentation of the Awards was held on 25 June 2009 at Kingsgate. All Chairs of governors were sent an invitation for themselves or a representative.

Contact: Tricia Keogh, Senior Education Officer (Pupil Support)

Tel: 01733 863717

Email: tricia.keogh@peterborough.gov.uk

Parent Governor Representatives

Peterborough has two Parent Governor Representative's posts representing primary, secondary and special school sectors. They have seats on Overview and Scrutiny Committees dealing with education issues, where they have the same rights to speak and vote as City Councillors. Parent Governor Representatives serve for a three-year term of office. They receive training and support for their role from the City Council's Democratic Services team.

Maggie Kirkbride was appointed as your representative in June 2007. Early next year we will be seeking nominations for other Parent Governor Representative vacancy from eligible parent governors.

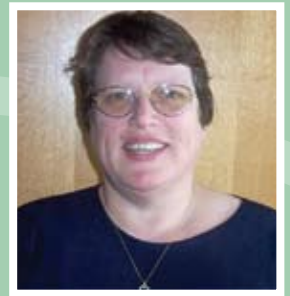
To contact the Parent Governor Representative:

Maggie can be contacted by e-mailing: pgr.mk@ntlworld.com

For further information about Parent Governor Representatives and the current vacancy contact:

Governor Services Team

E-mail: governor.development@peterborough.gov.uk



Heritage Park Primary School: Our 'Governor Mark' Story.

By achieving this status Heritage Park Primary School is proud to have become one of only five schools in the country and the first in Peterborough to have passed the strenuous assessment for the standard required.

For those that are not familiar with the criteria, the Governor Mark is the National Governors Association approved quality standard for governing bodies. It is a non-prescriptive framework, which recognises that there are many approaches to achieving sustainable excellence in school governance within the leadership and management structure of the school.

The governing body of Heritage Park Primary recognised that by working towards achieving the mark they would be able to identify areas in which improvements could be made. The process of making such an application is tough and requires a considerable amount of administration and also the support of the whole governing body.

We at Heritage Park Primary School governing body recognised that this process would help us to identify any work required by the GB to improve the way we did things, if we achieved the award it would be a bonus, but the guidance, framework and assessment application were seen as a useful tool for identifying areas for improvement. We went through the guidance and other paperwork over a couple of (long) sessions identifying what appropriate

evidence we had available to support our submission.

Tasks were allocated for each governor to contribute (it is vital that each member is totally committed to and will support the submission by contributing their time and completing tasks to deadlines set). We set sensible deadlines and ensured that they were met, offering support to anyone who required it.

With the paperwork submitted, we then had to prepare ourselves for an on site visit. Again this required further preparation in terms of ensuring that the diaries were checked and those required to attend could do so.

The on site review was undertaken by the audit team, which gave no disruption to the day to day workings of the school. So with both the written application and on site review completed we had to wait just a few

weeks before being advised that we had indeed been successful.

A few weeks later we were immensely pleased and very proud to be told that we had attained the accreditation especially knowing we were the first in the Peterborough area and only the fifth in the country to achieve this award. Wide smiles were worn by all at the next governors meeting the following week and I am still wearing mine!

Bryant Latham
Parent Governor
Heritage Park Primary School

The Governor Services Team have arranged a Governor Mark Training on Wednesday 18 November 2009 at KingsGate from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Please contact us to book your place

Left to right on photo is:- Richard Jenkins - Chair of Finance and Personnel Bryant Latham - Parent Governor Simon Bucknell - Chair of Governors.



DIPLOMAS OFFER PUPILS A HEAD START ON THEIR CAREER PATHS

Team Peterborough is a collaborative partnership of schools, colleges, providers, employers and Peterborough City Council that offer for young people aged 14-19 across the city. In 2006 the government placed a requirement on local authorities to ensure the diplomas. The entitlement comes into force in 2013 and includes a right to access 14 different diplomas, apprenticeships, GCSEs and impartial information advice and guidance.

Team Peterborough has approximately 200 students studying a diploma in creative and media; society, health and development; In 2010 we have been approved to increase the offer to cover construction and the built environment; sport and active leisure; and are intending to offer 7 more subjects from 2011.



What makes diplomas so different to other qualifications?

- Diplomas can only be offered by partnerships that have been approved by DCSF.
- Diplomas have been developed nationally (and tailored locally) by employers and HE to ensure they will produce the skills that employers need.
- Diplomas are not vocational qualifications but develop academic understanding of a broad sector area. They have been developed to make them more engaging and provide young people with the opportunity to develop their academic knowledge and skills in an applied setting. The diplomas will teach work-relevant knowledge and provide hands-on experience, while developing skills that are highly valued by universities and employers alike. The diplomas also put English, maths and ICT at the heart of the curriculum.
- Diplomas are offered at 3 levels for 14-19 years olds (Level 1-foundation diploma, Level 2-higher diploma and Level 3- advanced diploma is also available at post 16).
- The 14 to 16 higher diploma will be equivalent to seven and a half GCSE grades A to C and the 16 to 19 advanced diploma will be equivalent to three and a half A levels.
- Students can choose to study other qualifications within the diplomas such as GCSEs, A levels and BTEC units.
- A number of Peterborough employers have made a commitment to get involved with the diplomas by joining the consortia relevant to their employment sector.

Jane Hodges, Peterborough Regional College's 14-19 curriculum director, said: "As well as gaining an insight into what it's like to work in certain fields, the diplomas teach young people to be independent, innovative learners who use their initiative and can communicate well and work as part of a team. These skills will benefit them in whatever career they choose to do. At least half of the learning will be work-related. Lessons are creative, and enjoyable with more emphasis on practical learning.

Allison Sunley, Peterborough City Council's programme director for 14 to 19 year olds, said: "The diplomas are a chance for employers to get into the heart of secondary education and ensure young people have the range of skills they need for the workplace. This will enable us to ensure they are better prepared and more knowledgeable when making their first steps onto the career ladder. The new diplomas will give young people transferable work-based skills alongside the more traditional qualifications to make them more employable and benefit Peterborough as a whole".

Key messages for governors about diplomas

- Diplomas offer a different teaching style that this will improve attendance, retention levels.
- Diplomas are expected ultimately to help in education or training by offering a broad range of students of all ability levels and aspirations.
- Diplomas develop transferable skills valuable for all.
- Whilst individual schools and colleges are expected to have to show that they have facilitated a diploma, they have worked in partnership to ensure the provision is taken up.
- The introduction of diplomas to the curriculum will be evaluated by Ofsted framework will evaluate.
- Key stage 4 students will study the core curriculum subjects for the diploma.
- After studying a diploma students can go on to study core curriculum subjects for the diploma, apprenticeships or other vocational education or employment.

For more about diplomas in Peterborough
Contact: Miranda Boughton
Tel: 01733 863696
Email: miranda.boughton@peterborough.gov.uk

AD-START

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...hair and beauty or IT from September 2009.
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Diplomas

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...rborough.gov.uk

Introduction

to the New Head of Inclusion

Claire George took up post as the new Head of Inclusion working in the Learning and Skills Division, within Children's Services from June 1st 2009.

Claire writes: 'As both a teacher and social worker I bring an interesting mix of social care and educational experiences. I was Headteacher of a KS4 PRU and prior to that I spent 12 years as a teacher and a senior manager, developing inclusive practice and provision.

The role of Head of Inclusion is new within Children's Services, representing a significant commitment to the strategic development of integrated, inclusive practice, bringing together responsibility for SEN, Sensory Support Services, Autism Outreach, Educational Psychology, Education for Children in Care and the Pupil Referral Service under a single lead.

Some clear priorities are starting to emerge:

- Transforming the Pupil Referral Service to ensure greater flexibility, responsiveness, transition and, where appropriate, reintegration into mainstream school for our most challenging learners.
- Reviewing and reforming SEN processes to ensure openness and transparency and accountable decision-making that is right for children and young people and respected by a range of professionals.
- Reviewing and reforming SEN funding to create greater flexibility and better value for money, ensuring that funding follows the learner.
- Revisiting and refreshing the SEN and Inclusion strategies and revising a range of guidance to schools and for parents / carers.
- Developing an integrated, whole service approach to delivering the DCSF inclusion strategies and ensuring achievement for all.

I have already started consulting with relevant inclusion teams and a variety of partners in relation to trying to understand and evaluate what works well and how we can do it better! I have also been presenting and consulting on proposals with schools and the School Forum. I am also very happy to receive your ideas, views and comments in writing or via email. Following an initial consultation process we have already made changes to the SEN Panel process which will ensure decisions are made and communicated more equitably and effectively. I am very excited by the opportunities that this new post creates to work in partnership to improve learning and skills outcomes for our most vulnerable young learners. I look forward to meeting governors at schools and meetings soon'.



Contact: Claire George, Head of Inclusion

Tel: 01733 863700

Email: claire.george@peterborough.gov.uk

Changes relating to Children in Local Authority Care



In a recent letter to Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members for Children's Services Ed Balls writes:

"Children in Care should be the litmus test of how we are all delivering the ambitions set out in the Children's Plan to make this country the best place for every child to grow up".

This means that the policies, plans, outcomes and achievements of children in the care system have become a key factor upon which to make judgements about service provision and quality, in all areas that deal with children & young people. There are a number of significant ways that this will impact on schools. Whilst further information will be become available in the autumn term, the key issues for school governing bodies are summarised below.

- From September 2009 the role of the Designated Person (Teacher) for Children in Care becomes a legislative requirement in all schools. This will affect how schools are organised, regardless of whether there are any children in care in the school or not. As part of this role there is a requirement that the Designated Teacher will attend training in order to maintain and develop their knowledge and skills.
- It is suggested that the governing body should consider a brief termly report from the Designated Teacher on the progress and educational needs of children in care.
- As part of the changes in Ofsted Inspections, the provisions that a school makes for children in care as well as their participation and outcomes will be assessed and commented on.
- Changes in the way that children in care are encouraged to achieve more from their time in schools have been developed in the recent 'Care Matters'. This includes the provision of a Personal Education Allowance (PEA), an annual grant of up to £500 for some of our educationally more vulnerable children in care, but not for all children in care.

ETCiC

Education Team for Children in Care

- Every Child in Care must have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and it must be reviewed at regular, statutory intervals. This plan and review has always been a statutory school document for each child in care. We are currently piloting an amended version of the Peterborough PEP which will address all of the new requirements and legislative changes. There is also an increased expectation that the Designated Teacher will organise and co-ordinate the PEP review process.

The Education Team for Children in Care aim to work closely with governing bodies of all our schools to help them to address their new responsibilities relating to children in care. Details of the general training session for any interested governor is below. In addition in-house training from your governing body (or a cluster of governing bodies) is available to address your specific needs.

The new statutory guidance will be issued in September. Additional guidance is however being sent to Chairs in the Summer mailing. In future governors briefings I will supply further guidance on how we all might work together to boost the educational achievement of our children in care.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel that we can be of any support to the important work that you do for our children in care.

Contact: Brian Roberts, Head of Learning and Opportunity for Children in Care

Tel: 01733 863909

Email: brian.roberts@peterborough.gov.uk

**Governor Training Details:
The Education of Children in Care
Thursday - 26 November 2009
6pm - 7.30pm at The Salvation Army.
To book your place please contact the
Governor Services Team**

Update on the impact of The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

The above legislation enacts the creation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and the Vetting and Barring Scheme. This has led to the following employer obligations on school appointments.

From 12 October 2009:

Two new ISA barred lists will replace existing List 99 and Protection of Children Act Lists and there are available on request as part of an Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks.

Eligibility for Enhanced CRB checks will expand to include more employment and voluntary positions; such roles will be known as regulated positions.

Regulated activity involves contact with children and is of a specified nature on a frequent, intensive and/or overnight basis or is in a specified place frequently or intensively or is a defined position of responsibility (such as governors).

From July 2010:

Individuals will be able to apply to the CRB for ISA registration if they are applying to work with children. There will be a 5 year phased roll out for ISA registration of those individuals who currently work with children.

Employers will be able to express an interest in a person's ISA registration and informed of any changes to that person's ISA registration status. They can carry out free, online checks of a person's ISA registration status.

From November 2010:

It will be a legal requirement for individuals to register with the ISA if they intend to work or currently work with children.

General:

All employers need to check candidates' ISA status when recruiting; only candidates with ISA registration can be appointed.

Only an ISA registered person can undertake regulated activity – it is illegal to employ an unregistered person. An unregistered person means that a person has either not applied to register with the ISA or that they are on an ISA Barred List.

It is the individual's responsibility to apply to register with the ISA.

Once an employer has registered their interest in an individual in their capacity as the employer for the person, the employer is automatically updated should their status change – ie: if new information leads to an ISA decision to bar them.

Further information can be found at the ISA website including the operation of the scheme, impact on CRB and frequently asked questions. <http://www.isa.gov.org/default.aspx?page=395>.

Or contact : Aisla Nicholls, Lead HR Business Partner - Children's Services

Tel: 01733 863625

Email: aisla.nicholls@peterborough.gov.uk

What do governing bodies need to do?

Nothing as yet – your school HR provider and Governor Reference Group are working with a group under the auspices of the Children's Trust Stay Safe Partnership to ensure that policies and procedures will be available to you shortly which will be ISA and Vetting and Barring compliant. More information will be disseminated through future newsletters.

How this will affect individual governors?

From 1 November 2010, all governors, clerks and associate members being appointed for the first time or reappointed will need to be registered with the ISA, provide their consent to a Vetting and Barring Scheme check and provide their registration details before being able to take up appointment. Existing Governors and associate member will not need to register immediately. They will be required to register only when they begin a new term of office or take up a position with a new governing body.

Internal Audit Financial Management in Schools (FMSiS) Update



As the External Assessor for the Local Authority, I am pleased to write to you with a progress update.

May I congratulate the 25 schools that passed the Standard following the External Assessment process 2008/09. This means that, to date, 57 schools have passed the Standard. Thank you to all staff and governors who have provided input into the process.

The remaining 14 primary schools will be subject to review this year and, believe it or not, the time has rolled around for the Secondary schools to be re – assessed!

As you will all be aware, the External Assessment process has changed slightly each year based on experiences and feedback, in an effort to assist you all in achieving its requirements. This year the 'G4 Financial Management Standard and Assessment Tool 2009/10' should have been submitted by the end of

the summer term. As much detail as possible should have been included in response to each of the questions posed by the Standard, to reduce the burden on schools when the External Assessment takes place. Following receipt of G4's all schools will be contacted by a member of my team to arrange a mutually convenient 1 day visit to your school in order to undertake the review, which will result in a report to the school and governors.

Finally, remember the website contains a wealth of useful information, and I have issued our own updated version of the G5C document to all schools listing examples of evidence sources for each of the Assessment criteria. This is also available through the Governor Services Team.

Contact: Sarah Maxey, Principal Auditor
Te: 01733 384551
Email: sarah.maxey@peterborough.gov.uk

Governors can access FMSiS training provided by the Finance Team for Bursars and Finance Managers through the governor subscription package. These are advertised through your clerk.

Peterborough Governor Services have produced a CD Rom containing examples of relevant policies and other useful information to assist governing bodies undergoing FMSiS. Please contact the Governor Services Team for a copy of this.



Farewell to Tessa

Tessa Barcham, Governor Services Manager retired on 31 August 2009.

Tessa first joined Peterborough Local Authority in 2000 and started working with school governors in 2001. Over the years, she has extended the training provision and support for Peterborough governors. She aims to be very busy in her retirement and we wish all the best for the future.

Contact Us...

The governor service team is available to advise chairs, clerks and individual governors on all aspects of school governance, legislation and local issues. Please contact the team as follows:

(Governor Service Manager) **Tel:** 01733 863697
Sally Weald (Governor Service Assistant Manager) **Tel:** 01733 863720
Linda Styles (Governor Service Administrator) **Tel:** 01733 863694
Anna Ward (Governor Service Administrator) **Tel:** 01733 863642

Email: governor.development@peterborough.gov.uk
Fax no: 01733 863641

More information can be found on our website:
<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/page-7179>

STOP PRESS

Congratulations
to The Duke of
Bedford School,
who have just
been awarded an
outstanding Governor
Mark accreditation!!!