



WESTON
EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP

UPDATE

A Bulletin for Weston Federation Staff

Welcome to the first edition of the Federation Newsletter. As you will see, a lot has happened since the launch in January. I am really enjoying my new role as Director and look forward to working with you all in the future.

Julaine Baldan, Director of the Weston Education Partnership

Federation Launch

The Weston Federation was officially launched on January 5th 2004 at Rookery Manor. The keynote address was given by Mike Gibbons, Lead Director of the DfES Innovation Unit. Over 600 people attended this event. The day generated some really useful ideas that will be taken forward as part of the Federation Development Plan.

A 3pm finish!

To facilitate activity across the Federation, the Senior Leadership Team has agreed that from September 04 the school day will end at approximately 3pm. School meetings will be scheduled at common times so that teams can get together to share good practice and participate in CPD activities.

Raising Attainment & Achievement

A cross Federation Task Group has been looking at strategies aimed at raising attainment and achievement in the run up to tests and exams.

A pack which includes revision guides, top tips from across the Partnership and useful website addresses has been delivered to your school. Please speak to a member of your Senior Leadership Team for further information. Many thanks to colleagues who contributed to the pack.

Staff Social Committee

Sara Penn from Worle School has volunteered to set up a Social Committee for the Federation. She is hoping to launch the first event after Easter and will send out details soon.

SAM Learning in Schools now!

SAM Learning has been purchased for each of the four secondary schools in the Federation. Westhaven students will have access to the software via one of the other schools. SAM Learning is an online revision scheme that helps students develop a more effective exam technique. Recent research, has linked this with improved performance.

"SAM hits the spot"

SAM Learning, has been cited as a major factor in Knowsley LEA's 33.6% improvement in GCSE pass rate at A* to C grades. Knowsley had been languishing among the lowest performers nationally. Results when analysed last year, showed that pupils who spent more than 6 hours using this site, achieved five GCSE points higher than students who didn't.

TES online September 12th 2003

Welcome to the new Student Parliament Facilitator!

Terry Brown, Assistant Headteacher from Priory Community School, has agreed to facilitate the Student Parliament. On Friday 30th January, the Student Parliament elected the following officers:

- Chair—Chris Hole, Wyvern School
- Vice Chair—Aaron Pengelly, Priory School
- Secretary—Josh McTaggart, Worle

A New Assistant Director

We are pleased to announce that Nigel Cromey-Hawke will be joining the WEP team after Easter as the new Assistant Director for the Weston Education Partnership. Nigel joins us from Wyvern Community School where he was Assistant Headteacher. Nigel will be based at the WEP office from April.

Media Wise

Please keep the WEP office informed of any events taking place across the Federation. If you would like an article to be printed in this newsletter or want to get the press involved in media coverage, please contact Nicola Blain, WEP Administrator. See contact details below.

Assessment for Learning

The Assessment for Learning Network met at Priory Community School on 11th March. The group concentrated on the research findings of William and Black, with a particular focus on applying Assessment for Learning in the classroom.

The group also watched a video of Dave Perks (Priory) sharing National Curriculum Levels with a Yr8 History class using peer assessment techniques. The meeting was a success with 13 staff from 4 schools in attendance. Subjects covered included Maths, English, Science, Modern Languages, Humanities and DT.

The next meeting takes place at Wyvern on 24th March. Please come along!

@ Bristol Event

On Thursday 5th February, the Student Parliament was involved in a media experience in the recording studios @ Bristol. They were joined by Media Studies students from Worle school.

Students learned how a recording studio operates and looked at the range of jobs involved in putting together a TV programme. The day ended with a “group quiz” on health related topics and highlighted the range of styles that can be applied to Teaching & Learning in a variety of subject areas.

There is no doubt that the day was a huge success with regard to enjoyment and learning outcomes and is definitely something that everyone concerned would like to see repeated.

Terry Brown, Student Parliament Facilitator

Aiming Higher

Federation students have been participating in English and Maths Masterclasses hosted by Exeter University and the University of the West of England. Both programmes culminated in a celebration of achievement where the enthusiasm, commitment and ability of our students was recognised by the HEIs.

ITT Seminar

Trainees from across the Federation participated in a Seminar held at the Arosfa Hotel. Stewart Elston (AST Worle) and Dave Perks (AST Priory) led sessions on Behaviour Management and Assessment for Learning. Event feedback was really positive and we hope to run more cross Federation seminars in the future.

Special Schools give boost to Teacher Training

Federation trainees have been visiting Westhaven and Baytree Special schools as part of their ITT programme. The visit includes a tour of the school and lesson observations. These activities provide trainees with an insight into the spectrum of special needs across special and mainstream schools and the range of differentiated strategies that can be used to support students.

Making the most of Resources

Federation staff are getting together to look at how we can develop and share facilities and resources. We hope to develop a cross Federation catalogue listing what's available.