

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER SERVICE

NEWSLETTER 3

APRIL 2008

HERE COME THE SATs

This is just a reminder to all recipients of the newsletter who are not based in schools that SATs will be with us in May. Key Stage 3 (pupils in year 9) tests are the first week 6th - 9th May and Key Stage 2 (pupils in year 6) are the following week 12th - 16th. If you would like to discuss issues for any year 9 or year 6 young people please phone ECLAS.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS BILL

The Implementation Plan for Care Matters: Time to Deliver for Children in Care is now available

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/childrenincare/>

A reminder that there are three briefings on the educational implications of Care Matters

23rd April St Mary Redcliffe & Temple school

7th May Bristol Brunel Academy

21st May Portway School

All 4.30 - 6.00pm please groupwise Jackie Scarman if you would like to attend one of these sessions.

TRAINING FEEDBACK

Social Workers

15 people attended the training Supporting and promoting education for children in care. The course was well evaluated by all participants. Comments included: "Very informative and enjoyable training"

"Great day- really thought provoking and wealth of knowledge of facilitator"

Foundation Stage Practitioners

14 foundation stage practitioners representing a range of settings, Children's Centres, schools, nurseries, Portage and Inclusion Service attended the Course 'How can we support our youngest Children who are in care?'

Comments included

"Excellent link between practice & the underpinning theory"

"A deeper insight into how a child in care's emotional development is affected"

School Governors

8 Designated Governors for Children in Care attended follow up training. All governors went away with an Action Plan to discuss with their governing bodies. Comments included:

"The best training I have ever attended"

Designated Teachers

Supporting and promoting education for children in care - unfortunately this was cancelled due to poor take up

MORE ART SUCCESS

Some of the children in care and care leavers art work shown at the Bournemouth Conference has also been on show at the Foundling Museum in central London. A number of the pieces have been sold!

Our annual exhibition of ECLAS GCSE art will be at Bower Ashton Friday 13th June 6 - 9 pm more details next time.

FROM TARZAN TO SHAKESPEARE

Our Learning Mentors have been busy lately. We have had a trip to Dean Field study centre for a team building and high walk activity for 6 young people. This involved climbing up various ropes and trees, and finally making the 'leap of faith' onto a trapeze before sliding down a trip wire.

"Best comment "Wheee"

"Didn't quite have time for the leap of faith" (Learning Mentors!)

Six young people in Key stage 3 were taken to see the much acclaimed production of Much Ado about Nothing at the National Theatre in London. Some views expressed were

"I thought it was really funny"

"It was a bit difficult to understand at first but I got it in the end"

"It was a long play but it kept me interested. The theatre was amazing"

In the Easter holidays Craig and Angela will be taking young people in Key Stages 3 and 4 to visits at UWE, Bath Spa and Bristol Universities as part of the widening participation programme. 18 young people also had an evening out bowling with 6 student ambassadors. We are very grateful for the welcome children in care receive on these visits and events and for the support we receive from the three universities.

LETTERBOX CLUB EVALUATION

We have undertaken the final evaluation of the Letterbox club. Of the 40 children in the project 20 improved their standard reading score with an average range of improvement of 5 points. There are a number of reasons why half the pupils did not show a measurable improvement including one child who was already at the top of the scale. Placement and school moves can have an impact and

just how the child felt on the day of the assessment. In numeracy, all but 3 improved their performance. Some outcomes cannot be measured in point's scores Foster carers said

"She enjoys reading more now"

"My daughter got great pleasure out of her Letterbox Club parcels. She would wait looking forward to the next one being delivered and would really like to carry on receiving more"

"it was like her own special parcel with her treasures in it"

ADAPTING THE CURRICULUM

Our Achievement coordinator met with the Science Consultant for the authority to look at areas of secondary science curriculum that might present difficulties for children in care. We looked at areas such as genetics, inheritance and variation. Some of the exercises could be difficult (talk about what you have inherited from your mum) for children in care, adopted children and those who have lost contact with parents. It was not difficult to re-word or find alternative activities. This was a useful exercise and we look forward to working with colleagues in other subject areas in the same way.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES'

We lost a Jones when Annette left to become SEN Manager but we are pleased to say we have gained another. Chloe Jones (no relation) recently joined us as our admin assistant and will usually be the first voice you hear when you phone us. She is a very welcome addition to our admin team.

For more information about anything in this newsletter please contact Pauline Cole at ECLAS 37 73056 pauline.cole@bristol.gov.uk