

Item 6.1 - Business bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Thursday, 11 September 2014

European Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Councillor Paul Godzik</p>  <p>Vice-Convener Councillor Cathy Fullerton</p> 	<p>Cllr Paul Godzik (Convener) Cllr Cathy Fullerton (Vice-Convener) Cllr Elaine Aitken Cllr Robert Aldridge Cllr Norma Austin Hart Cllr Deidre Brock Cllr Maureen Child Cllr Nick Cook Cllr Gavin Corbett Cllr Cammy Day Cllr Denis Dixon Cllr Sandy Howat Cllr Allan Jackson Cllr David Key Cllr Richard Lewis Cllr Melanie Main Cllr Eric Milligan Cllr Vicki Redpath Cllr Keith Robson Cllr Jason Rust Cllr Andrew Burns (ex officio) Cllr Steve Cardownie (ex officio) For education items: Marie Allan (religious representative) Rev Thomas Coupar (religious representative) Allan Crosbie (teacher representative) Craig Duncan (religious representative) Lindsay Law (parent representative) John Swinburne (teacher representative)</p>	<p>Morris.Smith Senior Committee Officer Tel: 529 4227</p> <p>Maria Lloyd Departmental Adviser to the Convener and the Vice-Convener Tel: 529 3294</p>

Exam Results

Congratulations to pupils on gaining excellent exam results yet again this year. Congratulations and thanks too to our teachers for successfully introducing the new courses while at the same time continuing with existing Higher exams. The fact that our results continue to improve is a real testament to their hard work and dedication.

We are really pleased to report record Higher results and a continued trend of improvement across the board:

- 95% of pupils gained 5 awards at level 3 (a six percentage point improvement since 2009)
- 61% of pupils gained 1 Higher (a thirteen percentage point improvement since 2009)
- 43% of pupils gained 3 Highers (an eight percentage point improvement since 2009)

As an education authority we are delighted to note that the strong focus on literacy/English has contributed to significant improvement with 100% of pupils now gaining an award in English by the end of S5.

A detailed report on exam results will be reported to Committee when we have national comparison data.

Summer work in schools

A huge amount of school building works were carried out over the summer in 68 of our schools. This work ranged from window upgrades to creating additional classroom space. This is increasing capacity and improving the condition of our school estate. This has been achieved through £1.5m investment in asset management works.

After School Clubs Cooperative Launch of the New Charter

To support our commitment to a more flexible approach to childcare provision to meet the demands of parents and carers we launched the Cooperative Charter in May. This recognises the existing expertise

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that many after-school clubs already have and supports greater co-operation and collaboration between clubs and other partners such as Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC) and the City of Edinburgh Council. Our aim is to get as many organisations signed up to this as possible and increase the numbers of after-school clubs operating in our schools.

The Broughton Cluster achieve schools of cooperation and Cluster recognition

As part of the work towards being a Cooperative Capital the Broughton Cluster began working on this initiative in October 2012. The schools involved have fully embraced the co-operative principles and values and have successfully achieved the Cooperative Schools Award in partnership with Cooperative Education Trust Scotland (CETS).

The Cluster has achieved this award by successfully developing their values and principles across the Cluster. The focus for this initiative has been on Pupil Voice. This positive and innovative approach in the Cluster has led to the creation of a Co-operative Learning Council, whereby two P6 pupils from each primary school and two pupils from S1 in the High School meet twice a term to discuss Cluster-wide issues.

Having evaluated what worked within the Broughton Cluster, we will look to see how we can further develop co-operative community links with a wider range of partners. The focus will be on engaging pupils through Pupil Councils to ensure pupil and teacher participation is actively driving forward the principle and values in creating Schools of Cooperation.

We have secured a partnership with CETS for the next three years to continue to develop co-operative schools, with a plan to implement a three stage Award similar to 'Healthy Schools'. In stage one, schools will build on current good practice and focus on supporting pupil councils to become schools of co-operation.

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Launch of Corporate Parenting Action Plan- Refresh and Pledge to Listen Campaign

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 received Royal Assent on 27 March 2014. This is one of the most significant pieces of legislation affecting children, young people and their families since the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. The Act includes a focus on Corporate Parents, extending the list of public bodies with “corporate parenting responsibilities” and placing new duties on partners as “corporate parents” to strengthen support and improve outcomes for looked after children and young people. Our corporate parenting plan, which has been in place since 2012, is being used as a good practice model by the Looked After National Forum to share with other Local Authorities. We have signed up as a Council to the Pledge to Listen campaign to show a commitment to ending discrimination of Looked After young people and to ensure they have the same life chances as all of Edinburgh’s young people.

Play Day

A very successful Play Day took place in the Grassmarket on the 30 July 2014. This family friendly event included a wide range of activities including giant weaving, water play and a cardboard city. Play Day is part of a national campaign that highlights the importance of play in children’s lives. Information about the Playday saw the biggest number of links to our Brightfutures Blog! We hope next year that we will develop this into a Play Festival, with a range of activities across the City leading up to this exciting day.

New Portobello High School

On 26 June 2014 the Scottish Parliament unanimously agreed to pass the City of Edinburgh Council (Portobello Park) Private Bill following which there was a four week standstill period before Royal Assent was granted on 1 August 2014. The resulting legislation, The City of Edinburgh Council (Portobello Park) Act 2014, came into force the following day. The Act

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allowed the Council to appropriate Portobello Park as the site for the new Portobello High School with the contract with the preferred contractor, Balfour Beatty, having then been signed to ensure that the construction of the new school starts on site as quickly as possible. The new school is anticipated to open in August 2016.

Partnership with Further and Higher Education

At the end of April 2014, Senior Education Manager, Karen Prophet, signed an agreement with Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh College and other Local Authorities to formalise the delivery of Higher National Certificate courses in the Senior School curriculum. These courses in Health and Social Care, Hospitality, Food Science and Creative Industries provide young people with a high quality educational experience involving delivery by schools, Edinburgh College, Queen Margaret University and employers. In session 2013/14, over 50 S5 pupils are undertaking these courses and these pupils will achieve an HNC by the end of S6. Successful completion of these courses provides access to second year at University in their chosen area.

Pilrig Park's Journey to Excellence

Pilrig Park performed their [Commonwealth Games-themed show at the Festival Theatre](#) and now they have been featured in a video from Education Scotland, in which they explain how dance and creativity have helped them enrich their pupils' learning and move the school forward on their journey to excellence.

[Journey to Excellence](#) is an Education Scotland initiative to highlight excellent practice in schools across the country. The online resource features a range of videos showcasing the work of schools across curriculum areas.

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Literacy Development and the success of the Fresh Start Programme

Over 40 Primary schools are currently using this programme. Over 75% of pupils participating in the programme made significant improvement in their reading. The City has been asked to deliver a seminar on the Fresh Start programme at this year's Scottish Learning Festival in September 2014. Feedback from the parents, pupils and schools involved is positive and a full evaluation of the programme supports this improvement. A full report on the success of this programme will go to the Education, Children and Families Committee in December 2014.

Edinburgh is one of five local authority literacy hubs, which are centres for good practice and tasked with trialling and developing ways to improve reading skills.

Positive Destinations, Edinburgh Guarantee and Activity Agreements

As always the Edinburgh Guarantee is helping young people into positive destinations. Many of the companies who support this work are giving our pupils the opportunity to experience full time work experience to improve their employability skills and their chance of moving into full time employment. This year the number of Edinburgh young people in positive and sustained destinations is the best it has ever been at 91%.

Activity agreements give unemployed young people aged 16-19 the chance to take part in a programme of learning and activity which helps them to become ready for formal learning or employment. Recent independent research commissioned by Youth Link Scotland gives positive feedback from the young people. The purpose of the research was to understand how best to reach and support young people furthest from the labour market with 93% of young people saying their chances of gaining a job or going to college or training had improved and 91% said they felt more confident.

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Forthcoming activities:

The Scottish Learning Festival is taking place in Glasgow on 24 September 2014.
The next Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee will take place on 10 November 2014.