

## New Secondary Curriculum Local Authority Newsletter

Edition 3 – July 2008

### Introduction to July Newsletter

Welcome to the third edition of the newsletter. All the partners are now involved in planning support for the next stages in the development of the new secondary curriculum. On July 10 and 11 they met together with representatives from a number of local authorities to work on the key messages for the next stage of development. These will cover developing :

- a coherent 11-19 curriculum
- processes and tools to evaluate the impact of the new curriculum
- the wider curriculum, particularly Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) and the Dimensions
- Developing learners' engagement, motivation and commitment
- Developing a new conversation about assessment

There is a real commitment to involve local authorities as much as possible in the next stages of development. To support this QCA and Aspect, together with the other partners, are organising a seminar on **25 September in London**. All local authorities will be receiving an invitation shortly and we hope that each local authority will be able to send a representative. Further information is on page 2.

As a partner supporting the new secondary curriculum we recognise one of our key roles is to co-ordinate activities and approach it so we can present a logical and common message to local authorities. We also appreciate the critical role local authorities have in linking initiatives like Building Schools for the Future and the National Challenge with the new secondary curriculum within the context of children's services.

In the newsletter we have been including case studies from local authorities to share approaches to the development of the new secondary curriculum. We would like to continue this over the next year so please contact Judith Hibbert [Judith.hibbert@ntlworld.com](mailto:Judith.hibbert@ntlworld.com) if you wish to contribute a case study to the newsletter.

We hope you all have a good summer and look forward to working with you over the next year.

**Judith Hibbert**  
**Aspect National Advisor**

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## What are the partners doing?

### Aspect / CfBT

#### Seminar - 25 September 2008

Aspect is currently working with QCA on planning the seminar for local authorities to be held on September 25 at Canary Wharf, London. The seminar will focus on updating and developing the key messages that underpin phase two of the Secondary Curriculum Implementation Programme. It will provide the opportunity to consider the new and emerging support, advice, guidance and resources available over the coming year as part of the implementation programme. There will also be the opportunity to share some of the strategies and approaches being used to meet the specific priorities that face schools and colleges. The input from local authorities is vital in helping to develop the future direction of secondary curriculum implementation. The partners want to work with local authorities to ensure that support is coherent and comprehensive and can be tailored to meet local needs. This seminar provides a very valuable opportunity to work closely with local authorities to ensure the best possible support for secondary schools and colleges across the country.

#### Aspect Support

Over the next seven months Aspect would like to build on this seminar through their work with local authorities in the regions. Through our regional advisers we can offer the following to local authorities:

- The organisation of networks for local authority people engaged in supporting the new secondary curriculum
- An inset day which looks at the strategic role of the local authority in developing the curriculum, the links into the Children and Young People's Plan and the involvement of stakeholders
- Presentations for various groups involved in the new secondary curriculum
- Inputs to team meetings on the key messages and developments
- Support for individual local authorities which can include, for example: bringing newly appointed staff up to date; auditing/evaluating developments
- A two hour session for governor services on supporting governors role in relation to the curriculum
- A package of materials for use with governing bodies
- The co-ordination of support from subject associations

#### Accessing Subject Support

If your local authority would like to access subject support for networks or groups of schools please contact the Aspect regional adviser for your region to discuss your plans. We will then be able to put you in contact with the appropriate people.

If your local authority would like to discuss any of the above the contact details are as follows:

Martin Baxter	<a href="mailto:martin.baxter@sageinterim.co.uk">martin.baxter@sageinterim.co.uk</a>	South East/South West Region
Maxine Froggatt	<a href="mailto:maxinefroggatt@yahoo.co.uk">maxinefroggatt@yahoo.co.uk</a>	North West
Judith Hibbert	<a href="mailto:Judith.hibbert@ntlworld.com">Judith.hibbert@ntlworld.com</a>	Yorks & Humberside
Pat Lockett	<a href="mailto:pat@lockett74.freeseerve.co.uk">pat@lockett74.freeseerve.co.uk</a>	West Midlands
Bill Miller	<a href="mailto:bill@csnconsultancy.co.uk">bill@csnconsultancy.co.uk</a>	Eastern – South West
John Pearce	<a href="mailto:johnpearce@ntlworld.com">johnpearce@ntlworld.com</a>	East Midlands
Vicki Pite	<a href="mailto:Victoria@pites.globalnet.co.uk">Victoria@pites.globalnet.co.uk</a>	London
John Smith	<a href="mailto:jts@smoaklands.com">jts@smoaklands.com</a>	North East



**National College for School Leadership**

**Inspiring leaders; improving children's lives**

### **11-19 New Secondary Curriculum Support Programme – Autumn 2008**

The support programme for all secondary, middle and special schools continues in Autumn 2008. The focus of the support is on managing change and planning for the future – including assessment. There will be additional 'bespoke' workshops held for special and middle schools during November.

The activity is planned as follows:-

- 5 workshops per region from 1st – 24th October – All secondary, middle and special schools
- 6 bespoke workshops to be held nationally for special schools – November, dates tbc
- 4 bespoke workshops to be held nationally for middle schools – November, dates tbc

Invitations to attend the regional activity will be distributed early September.

All details regarding this activity can be found on the new 11-19 web pages from mid July – [www.ncsl.org.uk/11-19](http://www.ncsl.org.uk/11-19)

Contact for queries – Alison Matthews, Senior Project Co-ordinator, 0115 872 2567

## **National Strategies**

### **Secondary Frameworks at work**

Following a successful launch of the renewed secondary Frameworks on May 6th, the task over the past few weeks has been to support and encourage usage by schools in planning ahead for September, with a specific focus on year 7. Regional Advisers and Local Authority consultants have been promoting the concept of 'planning for progression' using the Frameworks which detail lines of progression in the subject. Local Authority Subject leader meetings are in full swing, with very positive responses being reported, especially on the ease of use of the online materials, and the focus in the Framework on progression. In early July the National Strategies introduced the Frameworks to over 500 secondary head teachers at two executive briefing conferences, placing the focus on how the secondary Frameworks can support a school senior leadership team in securing increased rates of progress for all pupils.

The next phase of support involves adding exemplification of planning processes and examples of effective teaching plans showing how to plan with learning objectives, and track progress using Assessing Pupil Progress criteria. These additional materials will be available on the Frameworks website from August.

## Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

This September the SSAT website for school curriculum designers has been relaunched with a new look and feel. One of the main new resources both in print and online is "Curriculum Design, Disciplined Innovation in Practice." This booklet brings together the experiences of some fifty schools in terms of how they successfully supported a culture of innovation and creativity in their organisation and at the same time remained focused on raising standards of attainment and achievement. Including as it does a range of examples of curriculum designs from many different settings it is available from [www.ssatrust.org.uk/curriculumdesign](http://www.ssatrust.org.uk/curriculumdesign)

During the Autumn term, SSAT are running two sets of free events supporting curriculum designers in schools. Local authority officers are very welcome to attend alongside school colleagues.

In September we are running 4 larger events aimed at those who were unable to attend the local summer events entitled 'How does your response to the new secondary curriculum create opportunities to redesign assessment?' These will be held in Manchester on the 15th September, Birmingham 18th September, London 19th September and Plymouth 22nd September. Information will be available on the website.

The fourth series of support events will be looking at 'How do we Organise Learning'. Rather than having a number of local events we will organise one larger curriculum design conference in each government office region in order to allow delegates to see a greater variety of schools presenting on their approach to curriculum change. These events will run from mid November to early December.

We are trying to work in a more focused way with local authorities on our approaches to curriculum design support and have been able to run joint events relating to curriculum change. If you would like to discuss how we could work more closely with you please contact us at [curriculumdesign@ssatrust.org.uk](mailto:curriculumdesign@ssatrust.org.uk)

## Subject Associations

### Art and Design - new Secondary Curriculum Support for Local Authorities

There is now an active team of 30 Art and Design RSAs in England, spread across the nine Government Regions. This team is led by John Bowden, MA; FNSEAD, who is joint National Subject Leader for the subject, working in conjunction with Dr John Steers; Ph.D, who is General Secretary of the National Society for Education Through Art and Design. The Society has appointed four Lead Regional Subject Advisers who are co-ordinating activities in pairs of the government regions - NW is paired with West Midlands under the regional leadership of Terry Holland, NE and Yorkshire regions are paired, led by Ted Kennedy, East and East Midlands are led by Oliver Nicholson and London and the South East is led by Sophie Leach. The SW is at present continuing to be directly led by John Bowden.

If any LA's wish to utilise the services of RSAs, initial contact should be made initially by e mail to John Bowden at [nscsupport@nsead.org](mailto:nscsupport@nsead.org) or by telephone to 07947582012. He will be pleased to discuss ways in which the two joint National Subject Leaders, and/or the Regional Subject Advisers can contribute to Local Authority curriculum development networks, or address specific meetings called by LA's which involve Art and Design teachers. Local Authorities might also consider mailing their schools about the availability of NSC Art and Design support - details of the range and scope of this support can be provided on request.

### Citizenship

#### An invitation to maximise the impact of the new Citizenship curriculum

To maximize the impact of the new Citizenship curriculum, we would like to work closely with Local Authority Advisers responsible for Citizenship and Citizenship Advanced Skills Teachers in each of the nine government regions of England. To this end, we have organised regional meetings to:

- 1) Ensure everyone is confident about the new Citizenship curriculum and the opportunities it offers;
- 2) Jointly develop a plan of action for the new curriculum to ensure maximum impact across each region;
- 3) Provide training, updates and share new resources on the new curriculum, including on assessment.

The provisional list of regional meetings, with dates and venues is below.

Some venues and timings are still to be confirmed, but they will be half-day meetings, and further details will follow. For the time being, please pencil your region's meeting in the diary! For more information, please contact Pete Pattison, National Subject Lead for Citizenship at: [pete@petepattison.com](mailto:pete@petepattison.com)

**East Midlands:** Wednesday September 17 Morning, Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, Leicestershire

**Eastern Region:** Monday September 22, Bishop's Hatfield School, Hatfield

**South East:** Friday September 26, Afternoon, ACT Office, 63 Gee Street, London

**North West:** Friday October 3, County Hall, Preston

**London:** Monday October 6, ACT Office, 63 Gee Street, London

**Yorkshire & The Humber:** Friday October 10, Venue TBC

**South West:** Monday Oct 13, Venue TBC

**North East:** Thursday Oct 23, County Hall, Durham

**West Midlands:** Friday Oct 24, Birmingham

### History

Frequently we are asked 'where do you start thinking about the new curriculum in history?' The answer is to audit your current provision, and to see how it matches up to the requirements of the New Secondary Curriculum, and especially the concepts, processes and range and content. You need to be honest with yourself, and clearly identify your strengths and areas requiring some attention. It is not a 'quick fix,' but a slowly thought through process requiring input from the whole department, pupils and community. The Historical Association has developed a useful audit tool to help in the process. It is obviously designed for history departments to use, but we feel it is appropriate for most other departments too, with a little modification. You can download a 'powerpoint' presentation version of our audit tool from the Historical Association website:

[www.history.org.uk/resources/secondary\\_resource\\_843\\_45.html](http://www.history.org.uk/resources/secondary_resource_843_45.html)

There you can also find other resources, for example workshops on diversity, significance, examples of curriculum models, all designed to help the process. And of course our RSAs can help deliver a wide range of supporting activities ranging from full days to twilights to email support. Do get in touch if we can help you support the introduction of the NSC in your LA.

[alf.wilkinson@history.org.uk](mailto:alf.wilkinson@history.org.uk), National Subject Leader History

### The Association for Language Learning

The Association for Language Learning has appointed RSA regional coordinators who will liaise with local authorities and other key partners to identify how to support schools most effectively in Phase 2 of the support programme. We are keen to identify good practice in schools and to work with local authorities to help build capacity and sustainability. Planning in each region will be based on a needs analysis and will include differentiated support.

The RSAs will continue to offer workshops during the Autumn and Spring terms, in collaboration with ALL branches, local authorities and Comenius managers. The emphasis will be on moving from theory to practice, engaging in more depth with key aspects of the programme of study and sharing practical ideas and resources. Other themes that will be covered include:

- Creating a coherent 3 – 19 curriculum
- The distinctive contribution of languages to the curriculum
- Strategies for dealing with varying school contexts
- Integrating qualifications and assessment within the new curriculum.

Our priority will be to help language departments to feel confident about refreshing their curriculum and to contribute actively to whole school developments. More video case studies will be produced in the Autumn, and we will continue to add material to the dedicated [www.all-nsc.org.uk](http://www.all-nsc.org.uk) website.

We are liaising closely with the Secondary National Strategies and CILT to ensure coherence with the Strategic Learning Networks. Many networks are planning to focus on the new curriculum and our aim is that network members will be able to draw on the information and ideas they have gained from RSA workshops and online support materials.

We hope to arrange planning meetings with local authorities during September. If you would like to get in touch with your RSA regional coordinator for languages, please contact Kathy Wicksteed on [kathywicksteed@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kathywicksteed@tiscali.co.uk)

### Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Association

#### Road Safety Education - a guide for healthy schools.

Helping schools achieve the road safety requirements of the NHSP (Criterion 3.7) has never been easier! Jenny McWhirter of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) has worked with the NHSP team to produce a guide to road safety education for healthy schools in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland – with a focus on the requirements in England.

The guide provides:

- data on road injuries for children and young people
- a curriculum planning tool, linking risk to learning outcomes for becoming a safe road user.
- helpful suggestions for improving links with the community and
- links to sustainable travel and school travel plans
- lesson plans for each key stage
- all illustrated with examples and case studies.

Hard copies of the guide are available **FREE** from Kathy Shortt ([kshortt@rospa.com](mailto:kshortt@rospa.com)) and a pdf. can be downloaded from the RoSPA website: [http://www.rospa.com/roadsafety/info/healthy\\_schools.pdf](http://www.rospa.com/roadsafety/info/healthy_schools.pdf)

#### The PSHE Association and ROSPA invite you to a seminar -“Risking it all in the revised curriculum”

An opportunity to review, reflect upon and plan Continuing Professional Development and support for risk education in the new PSHE education curriculum for secondary schools.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> London & Birmingham.

For more information and to book visit: <http://www.rospa.co.uk/events/pshe/index.htm>

### Religious Education

Regional subject advisers for religious education stand ready to support schools in the next phase of development of the new secondary curriculum. In conjunction with local authority and diocesan schools advisers they are prepared to work with small groups of schools in developing 'compelling learning' in RE. Contact Dave Francis, National Subject Lead for RE in the new secondary curriculum: [nsl@natre.org.uk](mailto:nsl@natre.org.uk) for details contact Dave Francis.

In some quarters there has been confusion over the legal status of RE in this new context. Just to be clear: religious education remains a statutory subject in the curriculum. Community schools and voluntary controlled schools are required to teach RE according to their local agreed syllabus. Voluntary aided schools with a religious character are required to teach RE as determined by their governors in accordance with their trust deed.

Academies must provide RE in accordance with the requirements for agreed syllabuses and have regard to the requirements of the Non-Statutory National Framework for RE, or, where the academy is designated as a school with a religious character, in accordance with the tenets of the specified religion or religious denomination.

In the new secondary curriculum for key stages 3 and 4, the QCA and DCSF have re-affirmed their commitment to the non-statutory national framework by including it in the same format as programmes of study for all other subjects, in the expectation that agreed syllabus conferences and others will make use of it.

Curriculum planners are advised in the publication, 'Curriculum Design: supporting the implementation of the new secondary curriculum' (DCSF, SSAT, NCSL, iNet) that 'the DCSF circular 1/94 "Religious Education and collective worship" makes a recommendation that religious education is taught for 45 hours per year in key stage 3. Most locally agreed syllabuses are based on this time allocation' (p.25). RE remains in the small core of compulsory subjects at key stage 4.

Amongst a number of resources for religious education teachers, there are now 32 case studies for 'compelling learning' in RE included on the National Association for Teachers of RE (NATRE) website. For details go to <http://www.natre.org.uk/> and click on the 'Secondary Curriculum Resources' banner below the welcome sign. To find out about the benefits of NATRE membership, click the 'Join Us' tab on the right.

## Music

### NAME/CfBT Phase Two Support for the New National Curriculum in Music

The National Association of Music Educators are working with CfBT Education Trust to provide support to teachers as they begin implementing the new National Curriculum for Music from September 2008.

Dr Jonathan Savage from the Institute of Education, Manchester Metropolitan University (the National Subject Lead for Music), is working closely with Lead Regional Support Advisors (Lead RSAs) in each of the nine Government regions. Working within existing education networks, these Lead RSAs, each with a supplementary small team of Regional Subject Advisors, are identifying specific regional needs and then implementing a regionally focussed package of support for teachers. This support is being delivered in collaboration with Local Authority provision in each region. Aspect is playing a crucial role in developing these links.

The NAME/CfBT support programme is also working collaboratively with other recent developments in music education at Key Stage 3 including the National Strategy for Music and the Musical Futures initiative. It is also building on significant pieces of curriculum reform at Key Stage 2 including the Wider Opportunities programme and Sing Up.

As well as face-to-face support for groups of teachers, the programme of support is developing a range of written and video materials. These will include 'How to ...' guides about new aspects of the curriculum, written case studies and video case studies for inclusion on the QCA new National Curriculum support website (<http://www.newsecondarycurriculum.org/>). These new materials will supplement a range of existing materials produced during Phase One of this project which are already available online at this site.

The Lead RSAs in each region can be contacted for information about their specific programmes of support:

Region	Lead RSA	Contact Email
London	Graeme Rudland	<a href="mailto:graemerudland@hotmail.co.uk">graemerudland@hotmail.co.uk</a>
South East	Jane Humberstone	<a href="mailto:jane.humberstone@eastsussex.gov.uk">jane.humberstone@eastsussex.gov.uk</a>
South West	Martin Sayer	<a href="mailto:mcsayer@ntlworld.com">mcsayer@ntlworld.com</a>
East of England	Chris Hiscock	<a href="mailto:chris.hiscock@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">chris.hiscock@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>
East Midlands	Anthony Anderson	<a href="mailto:ada@beauchamp.org.uk">ada@beauchamp.org.uk</a>
West Midlands	Robert Bunting	<a href="mailto:buntingbc@tiscali.co.uk">buntingbc@tiscali.co.uk</a>
North West	Jane Petrie	<a href="mailto:j.petrie@mmu.ac.uk">j.petrie@mmu.ac.uk</a>
North East	Andrew Fowler	<a href="mailto:a.fowler100@durhamlearning.net">a.fowler100@durhamlearning.net</a>
Yorkshire & the Humber	Jayne Price	<a href="mailto:j.price@hud.ac.uk">j.price@hud.ac.uk</a>

For general information about the programme of support please contact Dr Jonathan Savage at [j.savage@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:j.savage@mmu.ac.uk) (tel: 0161 247 2363).

Further information about the National Association of Music Educators can be found at their website, [www.name.org.uk](http://www.name.org.uk).

## West Midlands Local Authority Case Study

### Solihull

Mike Howell Senior School Improvement Adviser [mhowell@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:mhowell@solihull.gov.uk)

What are we trying to achieve?

The starting point for Solihull was to ensure an early start to New Secondary Curriculum preparation, so that whole school themes could be considered in time to influence timetabling, curriculum planning etc. The Local Authority aimed to work with senior leaders to ensure radical thinking around the QCA vision, which would then engage them in the big picture and avoid a “subject only” response. There was and is a commitment to encourage working in partnership between schools and with the Local Authority. The Local Authority had articulated a commitment to establish cross-phase dialogue about curriculum development.

How did we organise?

- A one day conference in November for Secondary Strategy managers and other senior leaders – with a keynote speaker from a “consultant” school, examples of innovative curriculum development from the National College of School Leadership, and a timeline for the academic year for school, Local Authority and national developments. The themes were revisited in the March conference, with schools identifying their main New Secondary Curriculum vehicles, sharing them with the Local Authority and each other.
- The New Secondary Curriculum was identified as one of 3 Secondary National Strategy priorities, with Functional Skills, SEAL, and the new Programmes of Study being identified as key developments within it.
- Local cascading of regional foundation subject training – with Local Authority advisers and advisory teachers working alongside specialist schools in some cases.
- Secondary National Strategy consultants offered support for schools in their dedicated summer Secondary Curriculum training days – working as a team around the school's own priorities (e.g. year 7 induction, cross-curricular days and weeks).

What's gone well?

Schools are applying the big picture at Senior Leadership Team level and in some cases using the QCA aims to shape their offer. There are good partnerships with 14-19 colleagues around functional skills and Personal Learning and Thinking Skills. There is clearly a heightened emphasis on transition from year 6 to year 7, and good thinking and planning for year 7.

The Solihull curriculum is being revisited by all schools with a renewed emphasis on core skills and on 2020, and there is a good focus on Assessment for Learning and Assessing Pupil Progress (together not separately!).

What's gone so-so?

Foundation subject cascading: the majority were well-attended, but not all. Heads of Department are increasingly aware of the big picture but understandably being cautious, and therefore focussing on the programmes of study in relation mainly to their own schemes of work.

What's still to do?

It is essential that we take a rigorous approach to evaluating the impact of changes, so that we avoid an approach built around disparate initiatives.

Follow-up is very necessary around new Programmes of Study, recognising it is easiest for core subjects; but we also need to look very closely at curriculum combinations and cross-curricular approaches in year 7. A number of schools are considering curriculum “combinations” and cross-curricular days or weeks. It is essential that we evaluate carefully the impact of these on learning in general and on the particular subjects contributing.

## Useful Publications & Websites

QCA curriculum design site

**NEW SECONDARY CURRICULUM WEBSITE**

<http://curriculum.qca.org.uk>

CfBT New Secondary Curriculum:

<http://www.cfbt.com/teach/newsecondarycurriculum.aspx>

New Dipolomas

[http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_13916.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_13916.aspx)

QCA Curriculum general:

[http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_104.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_104.aspx)

National Strategies Renewed Frameworks:

<http://www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/secondary/frameworks/>

SSAT curriculum design:

[www.ssatrust.org.uk/curriculumdesign](http://www.ssatrust.org.uk/curriculumdesign)

DCSF Local Authority support site

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/index.cfm?action=content&contentID=3104&categoryID=75&subcategoryID=106>

TEACHERNET home:

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk>

NCSL home:

<http://www.ncsl.org.uk/>

QCA home:

<http://www.qca.org.uk>

OFSTED home:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/>

[LeadingcurriculumchangeNCSL@rslive.co.uk](mailto:LeadingcurriculumchangeNCSL@rslive.co.uk)