

# School Support & Improvement Education & Lifelong Learning



JUNE 07

## Introduction—

### Steve Lamb Service Director School Support & Improvement

Another academic year is moving swiftly towards a close and initiatives continue to appear on our desks. Some come and go but some develop into fixed elements of professional practice. Workforce remodelling is an ongoing change management challenge of that second type.

With the release of WAG's report on The Impact of Workforce Remodelling on Pupils' Learning and Raising Standards, we can see that the focus is moving from HR issues to school improvement.

With this renewed focus it is a good time to look back and thank the change co-ordination team of seconded headteachers, Gareth Jones and Greg Reynolds, and their support officer Elizabeth Clarke. All three have either returned to posts or moved on and we wish them well.

In the next academic year we will have to identify new support in order to move forward to meet the learning needs of our children and young people.

## Y Wennol Ddarllen – The Reading Shuttle – a new Welsh Language phonics resource for schools!

In response to the demand for Welsh language resources to help teach children with literacy difficulties, the Learning Support Service has created 'Y Wennol Ddarllen – Blendiau c-ll' – a new phonics resource designed to help struggling readers understand and master the skill of sound blending. The file contains a number of multi sensory worksheets, certificates and adaptable games together with ideas for teaching strategies.

'Y Wennol Ddarllen – Blendiau c-ll' will be distributed to all Welsh schools in Rhondda



Cynon Taf before the end of the Summer Term.

Copies of 'Y Wennol Ddarllen' will also be available for purchase to other LEAs.

Many thanks to Rhiannon Humphreys, Language Support Teacher and Rachel Monkton, Administrative Assistant, for their help and enthusiasm in producing this valuable new Welsh language phonics resource.

**Ceri Jones, SEN Co-ordinator (01443 744357)**

## Community Focused Schools

### Award for Intergenerational Work

Cwmaman Past & Present Intergenerational project was presented with the Chartered Institute of Housing, Welsh Good Practice in Housing Awards 2007 for Housing and the Community. The project involves pupils from Glynhafod Primary school and older residents at Cwrt Alun Lewis sheltered housing complex. Wendy Morgan, Community Focused Schools Cluster worker is involved in the organisation of the project.

The children are learning important social skills and there is understanding and empathy developing on both sides, breaking down misconceptions.

Glynhafod Primary School Headteacher, Simon Roberts believes that the pupils have benefited enormously from the project. Their understanding of local history has been enhanced by talking to people who lived in the village when the mines were working. Above all, the project has shown that trust, confidence and friendship can exist between the two extremes of the intergenerational spectrum.

**Derek James (01443 744010)**

### Contact: School Support & Improvement Teams:

**School Improvement**  
01443 744035/6  
(Primary & Secondary)

**Access & Inclusion**  
01443 744015

**ESIS**  
01443 827500

**Get Sorted**  
01443 744386

**Governance & Liaison**  
01443 744180

**Music Service**  
01443 744017

### School Improvement Group: Headteacher Reps.

**Gill Coleman—**  
Williamstown Primary

**Lisa Bailey—**  
Trerobart Primary

**Andrew Manley—**  
Hirwaun Primary

**Marian Roberts—**  
Y.G.G. Bodringallt

**Pat O'Malley—**  
Darran Park Primary

**David Davies—**  
Cefn Primary

**Gareth Evans—**  
Dolau Primary

**Philippa Thomas—**Comin Inf  
**Carol Parker—** Cwmaman Inf

**Ann Morris—**Y.G. Llanhari  
**Elaine Keeble—**Tonyrefail

**David Murphy—**  
(Deputy) St. Johns CWS  
**Stephen Parry—**Tonypandy

**Ian Machin—**Aberdare Boys

## Music Service

*Please note that all Music Service activities on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings will take place at Coedylan Comprehensive School from September 2007.*

**Rachel Kilby - Music Service 01443 744017**

### GRIFFIN MILL STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2007

Top students battled against the elements to impress Griffin Mill Garages in a bid to win a car. All secondary schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf were asked to nominate their outstanding student of the year and the group met for the first time at an adventure day out with HCE at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel and Country Club.

The students were split into red, yellow and blue teams and took part in a range of team-building activities including 4x4 driving, building A-frames, map reading and an amusing game of shepherd and sheep, using only animal sounds to move blindfolded team-mates to a certain position.

With a number of mathematicians in the running this year you could see the logical minds analysing the various challenges set to the teams.

The 19 students will meet again at the awards dinner at the McDonald House Hotel in September where the regional winners from RCT will be named and the overall winner will be able to drive away a brand new Peugeot car courtesy of Griffin Mill.

**Gareth Rees—Secondary School Improvement Officer  
01443 663343**

### Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Association (SEBDA)

John Wagstaff Head of Tŷ Gwyn Pupil Referral Unit has recently been elected as Chairman of SEBDA Cymru. This is the association for people working with children with behavioural difficulties. This is a prestigious post as it is a national association. John is the inaugural chairman. Peter Thomas and Eleanor Aubrey from Behaviour Support committee members.

We are again at the forefront in research and development in this field.

**Ceirion Williams 01443 744398**

### Youth Workers

The Youth Service supported by the RCT 14 – 19 Partnership will be employing two new youth workers soon.

One worker will join the Youth Accreditation Team to pilot WAG's Demonstrating Success initiative. An element of the initiative is to utilise tools to measure emotional intelligence. The other worker will join the Duke of Edinburgh Award Team to support the development of the Award in schools. Award participation has improved considerably over the past few years. The new worker will increase the capacity of the team to provide additional support to Award participants.

**Ron Jones, Adult Education (01443 744105)**



### SUBSTANCE AWARENESS FOR EVERYONE (SAFE)

The SAFE (Substance Awareness For Everyone) project has been rolled-out across RCT this academic year. SAFE is a multi-agency response to the delivery of consistent substance misuse education in the primary phase across RCT. It has been developed in partnership with Get Sorted (the LEA's substance misuse education team), South Wales Police (All Wales Core Programme), ESIS and Primary Head representatives from RCT. The programme consists of six interactive lessons that introduce a number of community safety issues to pupils. The delivery of these lessons is shared between teachers and police officers supported by the get Sorted team.

The project encourages parental involvement through the use of collaborative homework activities and the attendance of parents at the SAFE celebration event that signifies the completion of the project.

The SAFE celebration is a means of rewarding pupils for their hard work during the project and thus each pupil receives a SAFE certificate and a SAFE t-shirt provided by Costain, one of the project's partners in the community. This celebration can take the form of cluster wide events that are held in the relevant secondary school, or presentation events held within individual schools.

This term the final two clusters will be completed, thus ensuring that every cluster within RCT has received SAFE. The project is committed to the principle of bilingualism and in this context lessons are delivered in English and in Welsh as appropriate.

**Visit [www.getsortedwales.co.uk](http://www.getsortedwales.co.uk)**

*If you would like to make a contribution to the next edition of the Newsletter, to update on a project or to give any information you would like highlighted - please contact Kris Oakey 01443-744036 at Tŷ Trevithick.*