



NAPE Autumn 2017

NEWS

News, Events and Contacts

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1. The National Council. The Council next meets at 10.30 am on the 13th January 2018 at the Moulton College national office. Members are welcome to attend as guests. Please get in touch with Sally Swallow (01604 647646) if you wish to receive an invitation.

2. Patrons. A number of friends of the association have suggested that we should establish a register of patrons willing to go on record as supportive of quality in primary education and NAPE's work towards the achievement of that quality. The first letters of invitation have now

been despatched and any members who wish to suggest the names of people in public life who should be approached are asked to send details to Pip Marples c/o the National Office.

3. Professional Development. The association will shortly be opening discussions with the Chartered College of Teachers with regard to the availability of opportunities for the professional development of primary school staff. We are about to take an initiative in partnership with associations who offer work of proven value in subject specialist fields. Colleagues who wish to explore possibilities for their school or a group of schools are invited to make contact with the General Secretary c/o the National Office.

4. Rosemary Evans Award. Recently qualified members who gained QTS since June 2015 are eligible to submit entries for the Rosemary Evans Bequest Award which will be given to the best original article written for publication in the association's journal, *Primary First* and social media. The award is for £200 and the theme can be selected from one of the following topics: The highlights and challenges of taking on your own class. What do you see as the key principles and/or values which inform your approach to learning and teaching? How can teacher retention be improved? The global teacher for the 21st century. Scripts should be sent to Robert Young c/o the National Office.

5. The Annual Meeting and Schiller Lecture. Provisional arrangements have been made for the annual meeting of members to be held at Leeds Trinity University on the 8th February 2018 commencing at 5.00 pm. This will also be the occasion for the Christian Schiller lecture entitled "What is and what might be -- rethinking the inspection of primary schools" to be given by Professor Colin Richards.

6. Primary First. Our journal, *Primary First*, Issue 20 will be published on the 30th November and the on-line version to all schools in England and Wales will follow some two weeks later. The editor continues to seek contributions from practitioners who report innovative teaching particularly when this draws upon sound research.

7. Keycolab European Project UK. The final evaluation report of the project's work in the UK undertaken by NAPE in partnership with educators working in Spain, Belgium, Romania and Finland will be published in the spring issue of *Primary First*. All teachers and heads in the schools involved have been invited to contribute. It is hoped that the report will constitute a major contribution to theory and practice regarding the use of the environment as a base for teaching and learning. Members are invited to "like" the Keycolab Facebook page and to sign up to the e-twinning site.

8. Chartered College of Teaching. The association is developing our link with the College and look forward to the time when there is complete independence from government funding. At present the provision of official funds totalling £5m over the first four years to support the establishment of the college is an inhibition to the efforts being made towards a fully independent professional voice. The second Annual Conference of the College will be held on the 17th February 2018.

9. NAPE SE London. The local association has taken a decision to continue its work under the chairmanship of Iain Kitchener. Iain is currently Deputy Head of Primary Education at the University of Greenwich.

10. Media. Contacts with the media have included BBC News (Possible closure of breakfast clubs), TES (Primary v secondary funding), I-News (Parental donations to school budgets in respect of essentials for learning) and the BBC Business Unit, (Financial education in primary schools). The most recent release issued to the media follows:

Acknowledging Differences in the Children

The Secretary of State did not accept the advice given by a substantial number of teachers that the baseline assessment of young children early in the admission year should not serve as a reliable measure when progress is assessed some six years later. **This association of parents and teachers reiterates its advice that such assessment should be used to inform education in the primary school and for no other purposes.**

The government intends that baseline assessment should be carried out in the early weeks of entry to the admission class. A few children will have reached their fifth birthday but most children will be four years old at that point and the youngest will not become five until the 31st August, almost a year later.

We point out that such assessment will not be of educational attainment but will simply be an assessment of the nurturing capabilities of the family. It is vital that the assessment should be moderated according to chronological age. Those making the assessment must allow for the wide differences in personal development evidenced by children of different ages.

It is high time that the DfE recognised the impact of chronological age when setting out 'expected' levels of achievement. The results of the screening for phonic awareness carried out two years later illustrate this with absolute clarity. **The 'expected' level is the same for all children but 88% of the oldest children who sat the test achieved a pass mark whereas only 74% of the youngest did so. What nonsense to expect the same performance from every child just because they are all in the same class.**

The association affirms its commitment to primary education based on the age, attributes and talents of the children individually and not on the old fashioned view that learning must be related to the organisational stage of the school system.

If someone you are persuading to join the association asks why they and their school should join, please use this NAPE News to convince them. The media release will demonstrate that we are a much needed voice for primary education.

John Coe, Information Officer

November 2017