

S3 pupils in Glasgow

Information for parent/carers

December 2012

This brief newsletter aims to give you an update on what's happening in Curriculum for Excellence just now. It has been produced in collaboration with Glasgow Parent Council Forum.

After Christmas your son or daughter will enter the final two terms of their **Broad General Education** and the information here should help to reassure you that, at various levels in education, preparations for the transition from S3 to the **Senior Phase** are well advanced.

(Links to relevant materials referred to below are overleaf)

NATIONAL level:

- For teachers Education Scotland has launched the first in a series of Professional Focus papers to support teachers in the new qualifications.
- By April 2013 exemplar course materials across the full range of National 4 and National 5 qualifications will be available from Education Scotland on GLOW, to help teachers prepare the courses for young people in the Senior Phase.
- Two new Education Scotland **briefing papers** have been published, one on **Personalising Learning** and one focusing on **Transition to Senior Phase**. You will be able to view these on the Education Scotland website.
- In October SQA published its first pack of unit assessments for teachers on its secure website. Further exemplar material will be available in Feb and April 2013.
- SQA will shortly publish a further information booklet specifically for parents.

LOCAL AUTHORITY level

Recently the second of two Curriculum for Excellence inservice days this session, was given over to departments to help teachers continue to prepare for the new qualifications, which begin in session 2013 - 2014.

Together with headquarter staff a number of seconded teachers are supporting subject networks with this preparation. For a few subjects relevant commercial materials have been purchased. Further funding will be available to secondary schools after Christmas to meet

the identified needs of staff in preparing at this important time.

Teacher subject networks are meeting more frequently this session and continue to work very hard to identify the needs of staff and pupils at this point.

In November two new authority position papers were issued to schools to support staff understanding of new aspects of assessment and tracking pupil progress.

SECONDARY SCHOOL level

All Glasgow secondary schools are currently finalising their curriculum plans for next session when your child will move into S4.

Next term your secondary school will be in contact with S3 parents and provide information and opportunities such as parent evenings, newsletters and possibly option evenings to let you know about their plans and the pathways

through the **Senior Phase** best suited to your son or daughter.

All Glasgow schools are in the process of supporting your son or daughter to produce their S3 profile. A number of electronic portfolio products have been made available to schools to support this process, such as **MERIT** or **GLOW**.

How can PARENTS support learning?

In preparation for moving into S4 talk to your son or daughter about their strengths, their interests and their experience in school. How are they actively involved in their learning? Do they experience interdisciplinary learning opportunities across subject areas to help them make connections? What opportunities do they have to reflect on and to record their wider achievements for their S3 profile?

You will want to engage with the school and to ask questions about the plans for Senior Phase and how these will affect your son or daughter.

Make sure that you have access to the **Parents as Partners factfile** referred to below which provides helpful information and signposts other resources for parents.

References

- www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/46161.html
- www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/cfe/index.asp
- www.educationscotland.gov.uk/thecurriculum/whatiscurriculumforexcellence/keydocs/cfebriefings.asp
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