



## E-NEWS UPDATE JUNE 2014

Visit National Parent Forum of Scotland website

### FROM IAIN ELLIS, CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL PARENT FORUM OF SCOTLAND

Welcome to our summer E-News Update. Please put two events in your diary for next term. Firstly, visit Parents Connect, the new zone for parents at the [Scottish Learning Festival](#) (free, 24 and 25 September) which we are co-hosting with the Scottish Parent Teacher Council. Secondly, our annual conference (free, 4 October) is open to all families and offers parent seminars, workshops and children's activities. [Email us](#) to register your interest. At both events you can put questions to education leaders and practitioners, hear about good practice and share your own ideas and experiences. Please visit our re-designed [website](#) for details from August.

For those of you with S4 to S6/college children, our new resources for the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) were launched at a recent St Ambrose High School parent event to mark the end of the first year of CfE National Qualifications. These resources are: CfE Highers in a Nutshell, Skills in a Nutshell and Progression in a Nutshell. Assessment in a Nutshell, which explains assessment in CfE qualifications, has also been updated to include Highers. You will find these on our [website](#). At the end of the exams, we asked an S4 parent focus group how the first year of Nationals had been for them and their children. Please [email me](#) your views: I will share these with the [Curriculum for Excellence Management Board](#) in my role as parent rep on the Board.

If your child is in the Broad General Education (BGE) phase (early years to S3) of Curriculum for Excellence, see below to find out more about the roll-out of the 600 hours of free early years education and care, for information on our working group on attainment in the Broad General Education, and for news of our recent focus group on parental awareness of the 1 + 2 modern languages policy. Would you like us to host a focus group in your school on a particular topic? [Email us](#) with your ideas, views and concerns.

Wishing you all the best for the summer - enjoy the Commonwealth Games!

Yours in partnership,  
Iain Ellis

STOP PRESS: A new working partnership between the National Parent Forum and Children in Scotland was recently announced! Click [here](#) for more information.

#### EVENTS:

##### \*PARENTS CONNECT: THE SCOTTISH LEARNING FESTIVAL

We are co-hosting with the Scottish Parent Teacher Council a new parent area at Scotland's free annual showcase for education on 24 and 25 September at Glasgow's SECC. Come and meet us and a host of information-sharing, learning-related organisations there. Book your free ticket and your place at seminars and keynote speeches [here](#).

##### \*NATIONAL PARENT FORUM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On Saturday 4 October, Bishopriggs Academy again hosts our annual conference. This free event includes seminars, workshops, children's activities plus free transport from Bishopriggs Station, a buffet lunch, a creche. Our conference theme is 'Equipping our children with skills for the future' and we are delighted to announce that our keynote speaker is Sir Ian Wood, chair of the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce

#### Contact Us

Join our database to receive this E News Update and other relevant information from the National Parent Forum by [emailing us](#) your contact details. Visit our [website](#). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook by clicking the icons at the top of this E-News Update.

#### Additional Primary School Inservice Day

(see below for information on the [Wood Commission](#) report). Register your interest in attending our conference [here](#).

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## **CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE BROAD GENERAL EDUCATION (EARLY YEARS-S3):**

### **\*NATIONAL PARENT FORUM ATTAINMENT WORKING GROUP**

Do you know how your child's learning is progressing? Our National Parent Forum group, comprising parents, teachers and representatives of Education Scotland, has been looking at how children's progress and attainment is tracked in the Broad General Education and how it is reported to parents. Our East Renfrewshire rep, Joseph McLachlan, who has led the group, commented: "This has been a big piece of work, involving time and commitment from this collaborative group. I am really pleased with how we worked together, to seek out examples of good practice in how our children's progress is tracked and how parents are kept informed. We will publish our report with recommendations shortly on the [NPFS website](#)."

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### **\*MODERN LANGUAGES: 1+2 POLICY**

Our recent parent focus group which was held in East Lothian asked parents about their understanding of the 1 + 2 Modern Languages policy and about their local experience of the roll-out of this policy, which requires all children and young people in the Broad General Education to have the opportunities to learn two modern languages in addition to their first language. Initial findings suggest that local authorities are making preparations for this but that information about this has not yet been widely shared with parents. Our report and recommendations will appear on [our website](#) soon.

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## **CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE SENIOR PHASE (S4-S6/COLLEGE):**

### **\*NEW CFE QUALIFICATIONS RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND LEARNERS**

We continue to add to our well-received information resources which explain the new CfE National Qualifications. These can all be found on our [website](#). Nationals and Highers in a Nutshell are our series of CfE National Qualifications subject course summaries. There are Nutshell summaries available in 30 subjects at National 4 and 5 and 30 at CfE Higher. Progression in a Nutshell sets out how qualifications link together from S4 into college/university or work-based learning so you can see the range of learning and qualification pathways that are available to young people. Skills in a Nutshell maps out the wide range of CfE skills - personal skills, key skills, thinking skills and specialist skills - that your child will develop throughout Curriculum for Excellence.

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### **\*REFLECTIONS ON THE CFE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2013/14**

S4 parents from several high schools recently attended our focus group which asked 'How has S4 been for you and your child?' Our findings will feed into the work of the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence Management Board. There were some common themes. Young people and teachers had worked really hard; parents recognised and were very grateful for this. Testing as a way of completing Unit Assessments had been extensive but schools are telling parents that this will reduce for the new S4 cohort, as teachers refine and compound their assessing techniques, with input from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. There was concern about

### **for 2014/15**

We took the unusual step (for us) of asking for an additional in-service day for primary schools in 2014/15 which has now been agreed by the Scottish Government. We would like schools to use some of the day to look at tracking children's progress and at how this is reported to parents. Please do ask at your school about this. The report by our working group on attainment will be a useful tool for schools (see left).

### **Education Scotland: New Parent Resources**

You can now watch videos on [Parentzone](#) which will give you ideas about how you can support your child's literacy at home. The videos feature tips on developing skills in reading, writing, talking and listening for different age-groups (from early years to 14-16 years old).

### **Useful Contacts**

[The National Parent Forum of Scotland](#) - creating a voice for Scotland's parents.

[Education Scotland's Parentzone website](#) provides you with up to date information about your child's education.

[Parents as Partners in their Children's Learning Toolkit](#)

[Parenting Across Scotland](#) offers information and support for families in Scotland.

[Scottish Parent Teacher Council \(SPTC\)](#) provides information for parents and carers.

potential inequalities for pupils undertaking National 4 qualifications which might arise in some mixed National 4 and National 5 classes, where there had been a strong focus on National 5 exams. Share your experiences by [emailing us](#).

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## NATIONAL PARENT FORUM NEWS AND VIEWS

- The National Parent Forum has been invited to put forward reps for new National Forums which will consider curricular learning, teaching and assessment in different areas of the curriculum and for different age-groups. Supported by Education Scotland, Scottish Government and the Association for the Directors of Education Scotland, the first four of these will look at the expressive arts, national digital learning, mathematics and numeracy and the middle years (aged 8 to 16). The first four Forums will look at expressive arts, the middle years (aged 8-16), mathematics and numeracy and ICT in schools. Share your views on these with us [by email](#).
- Have you been involved in inspiring activities in your school which span different curricular areas or year-groups? Douglas Chapelle, our East Dunbartonshire rep, is seeking good examples of interdisciplinary learning. [Email Douglas](#) to share your experiences.
- We are delighted to announce a new working relationship with [Children in Scotland](#). For us, this means organisational support (our reps are all volunteers) and closer ties with Scotland's umbrella body for those who work with children and their families.
- Please do visit our brand new website and share your feedback. It can be accessed either at our usual [www.parentforumsotland.org](http://www.parentforumsotland.org) or at [www.npfs.org.uk](http://www.npfs.org.uk).

[Enquire](#) is the Scottish Advice Service for Additional Support for Learning.

The [Addressing Dyslexia Toolkit](#) has been prepared to support dyslexic children and young people and contains sections for professionals, parents and young people themselves.

Run by Children 1st, the [Parentline](#) helpline provides support and information for parents/carers and families on 08000 282233.

[CALL Scotland](#) specialises in assistive technologies for supporting communication and learning for children and young people with additional support needs. Click [here](#) to find out about specialist equipment, digital exams, Books for All and more.

**The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014** [The Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act](#) was passed on 19 February. There are several strands within the Act. From August, all children aged 3 and 4 will be entitled to 600 free hours of early years learning and childcare (up from the current entitlement of 475 hours per year). Children from the age of two who are looked after, who are subject to kinship care orders or who live in workless households will also be entitled to this 600 hours. Public consultation on guidance for the Named Person and Child's Plan aspect of the Act will begin in 2015. Outline guidance is available [here](#). This relates to the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach which is already being implemented across Scotland; more engagement events are planned for this. The children's rights and children's services part of the Act places new duties on health boards and local authorities: a working group is being set up to look at how these duties will be recorded and reported. Provisions in the Act to provide further support to children and young people in care and to care-leavers will require guidance and secondary legislation. Further information on other aspects of the Act - school closures, children's hearings and the provision of school meals - is to follow.

## GETTING IT RIGHT FROM THE START

[ENABLE Scotland](#) is researching some of the challenges faced by families in the early stages of diagnosis of a child's learning disability. If this is relevant to you, please share your views by completing the Enable survey [here](#) by 30 June. If you are willing to take part in one-to-one interviews, please [email Enable Scotland](#).

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## THE COMMISSION ON DEVELOPING SCOTLAND'S YOUNG WORKFORCE

This Commission, chaired by Sir Ian Wood, published its [report and recommendations](#) in early June. It calls for: school leavers to be better prepared for work; more high quality college educational experiences

## Concussion in Children and Young People

'If in doubt, sit it out' is the key message of an information leaflet and campaign to raise awareness about concussion in school sports. Children and young people do not always lose consciousness when concussed. Please read and circulate this

leading to work and further learning; more Modern Apprenticeships, including higher level ones; better engagement between employers and schools/colleges/universities.

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[concussion information leaflet](#) which describes what signs and symptoms to look out for.

## RESPECTME GUIDE ON BULLYING FOR PARENTS/CARERS

A new guide for parents/carers about bullying has been published by RespectMe. Available [here](#), the guide sets out what is meant by bullying behaviour, how to recognise it and how to deal with it. The most common form of bullying behaviour is about appearance - parents should be particularly alert to this, not least because we live in a culture where personal and hurtful comments about appearance often go unchallenged.

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