

Dear Colleagues

I'd like to begin by wishing you all a happy new year and hope you had a good break. I know there are lots of reports every year about how stressful the Christmas break is supposed to be, but for me the greatest stress was the first day back at work, and only partially because of Tokyo subway levels of tube over-crowding.

Appointments

In the last newsletter of 2018, I wrote that I looked forward to resuming in the new year with news of the appointment of the substantive Director. That's the first disappointment of 2019, as members were not able to make an appointment to the post. Appointments were made to the posts of Director of Public Health and Director of Operations in Children's Social Care, and details of those appointments will be made public soon. As yet, I have no information about plans for the Director of Education and Skills post. I've had to say that quite a few times already to staff in the Council and expect to be repeating myself for a while.

Final KS2 Results

Last week the DfE released the final attainment results for KS2 by local authority. At the end of last term, The Newham Recorder chose to publish an article supposedly identifying the worst schools in Newham (based on a really poor reading of the published progress data), so it is worth detailing the reasons to celebrate attainment in Newham Primary schools:

- 76% of children in Newham primary schools achieved the expected standard in all of reading, writing and mathematics. The national result is 65% and Newham continues to perform well above national average
- Newham is ranked 2nd nationally on this measure, up from 11th in 2017. Only Richmond scored higher (81%) and Trafford and Kensington & Chelsea had an equal outcome
- 87% of pupils in Newham schools achieved the expected standard in mathematics and 37% met the higher standard – both outcomes are the 3rd highest in England. Newham's scaled score in mathematics was 107 – the 2nd highest in England
- Outcomes for grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) were also high, with 88% meeting the expected standard and 53% meeting the higher standard – 3rd and 4th highest in England respectively. Newham's scaled score for GPS was 110 – joint 1st in England (equal with Richmond, Sutton, City of London and Kensington and Chelsea)
- Newham's progress in reading, writing and maths was ranked respectively 2nd, 2nd and 1st in England. The mathematics rank is not joint with any other local authority – it's the highest progress score out of all 152 LAs

For the sake of full disclosure, Newham's rank position in writing has slipped back very slightly on 2017 at the higher standard. I know Cllr Marriott regularly questions whether KS2 attainment outcomes should be the only metric by which primary schools are judged (and that she reads these introductions), but these are terrific results that should be rightly celebrated.

SEND

On Monday of this week, Simon Mckenzie, Grainne Siggins and myself met with the DfE SEND Adviser. Simon and I have a schedule of monthly meetings with her which is an indication of the level of focus and concern. What was scheduled as a 90 minute meeting overran by 50 minutes and was a pretty forensic examination of existing data and plans, as well as finding out about other authorities' strategies for dealing with the common challenges.

We shall also be bringing forward some proposed changes to funding arrangements to the Schools Forum High Needs Block working party next week as we try to stabilise the budget position.

School Improvement Partnership

Thank you to those schools which have booked meetings with officers to discuss the proposed school improvement partnership – Uniting and Supporting Newham Schools. Over 30 schools from all sectors have now booked meetings and the first meetings have taken place between headteachers and senior officers. The aim is to establish the level of interest in the proposed offer and ensure the content will meet schools' needs before final proposals are brought to Cabinet in the spring. If you haven't yet booked a meeting, please contact jackie.hoolas@newham.gov.uk with your availability in January.

Every Child Programme – Consultation

As you are aware the Council has launched a consultation on the future of the Every Child programme and a new cultural offer for children and young people. The consultation will help the Council decide on how to best direct vital resources to provide the best offer for our children and young people. We wish to maximise the number of comments received from schools and children and young people as they are key stakeholders.

We would be grateful if school teachers/leaders and pupils would contribute their views using the link below by 20th January 2019: www.newham.gov.uk/EveryChildConsultation

Children Missing Education

Our Strategic CME Panel met this week to review data and progress with ensuring all Newham children are receiving a suitable education. We know that a number of children are out of school; some because parents have elected to educate them at home, some because of delays for various reasons in the admissions process, some where there are significant attendance issues, some where the child's specific needs pose problems for identifying a suitable school place. We review progress with all of these groups and try to identify and remove obstacles to ensuring a suitable (and safe) education is being provided. And then there are the children who 'disappear' and are our highest cause for concern.

One of our challenges is quantifying exactly this group, and we rely on data returns from school as part of that process. So, a concern for us at the moment is that we are awaiting information from primary schools on 145 children who were offered places as mid-year admissions but the GroupCall data transfer show are not attending. For secondary schools, the figure is 191. Schools have been contacted by the admissions team for information about these children, but we are still awaiting the information. A list has been sent to all schools this week, could I enter a plea for a response?

Alternative Provision

Similarly, we have asked for information about the education received by children you have placed in alternative provision (including a nil return) as we have report to OFSTED on this. We are still awaiting responses from 13 primary and 7 secondary schools who we have contacted again. Huw Jones has constructed a template designed to be easy to complete, so I would ask again that this is completed for the monthly return in January. Habiba Patel, from the Performance Team is collecting the information and would be delighted to hear from those with outstanding returns (Habiba.Patel@newham.gov.uk).

Best wishes

Terry Reynolds; Director of Education and Skills

Early Help Strategy update on System Connectivity work

As part of the Early Help strategy, and in response to feedback from headteachers, we are reviewing the previous work on linking Safeguarding Software with Azeus. We are scoping out the feasibility of creating an interface between the two systems and are keen for headteachers and DSLs to be involved in stakeholder events - for further information, please contact Ben.Wolf@newham.gov.uk. Similarly we are undertaking a short diagnostic report of ChildView and its capabilities for Early Help reporting. We are looking for volunteer staff from our children's centres and/or headteachers to be interviewed by Wai Chan, on our behalf. Wai can be contacted at wai.chan@mutualventures.co.uk or please contact him via Jason.eustice@newham.gov.uk. We hope to take a report to the Early Help Engagement and Advisory Board in January to agree next steps.

For any issues related to the Early Help Strategy, please contact Nasima Patel nasima.patel@newham.gov.uk

Research Report into Sustainable Improvement in Multi-School Groups

To access the research report published in December 2018 by Toby Greany, UCL Institute of Education/University of Nottingham, please click on the [link](#).

Children in Tower Hamlets and Newham offered chance to study real human heart (Newham Recorder)

Children in Newham schools are being offered the chance to study a real human heart to better understand their own. Click [here](#) for the article.

"2,3,4!" Newsletter - Dec 2018

A monthly newsletter for providers of funded early education entitlements. Read for latest news and developments. Click [here](#)

The [information sent to schools](#) is as follows:

Primary assessment

- **Publication: English writing standardisation exercise 2 available on NCA tools**
- **Reminder: removal of assessment updates from GOV.UK**

[2018 national curriculum test handbook](#)

The NCT handbook contains information on the design, development and delivery of the 2018 key stage 1 (KS1) and key stage 2 (KS2) national curriculum tests.

[National curriculum assessments: key stage 2, 2018 \(provisional\)](#)

Provisional 2018 key stage 2 results for pupils in schools in England at national, regional and local authority level.

[Key stage 1 and key stage 2 test dates](#)

Future dates for the key stage 1 and key stage 2 tests (commonly referred to as SATs), phonics screening check, multiplication tables check and science sampling tests.

ESFA

Schools funding for 2019 to 2020

The following arrangements for pupil premium and other school premiums in 2019 to 2020 have been announced:

Teachers pay grant

[Teachers pay grant](#) will continue in academic year 2019 to 2020.

Pupil premium

Pupil premium will continue at the current per-pupil rates for the 2019 to 2020 financial year.

You can [read the published pupil premium conditions of grant](#).

Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM)

The grant for universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) continues at a meal rate of £2.30 for the 2019 to 2020 academic year. Further details will be available in 2019.

Free school meals supplementary grant

The [free school meal supplementary grant](#) will continue in 2019 to 2020.

Year 7 catch-up premium

The year 7 catch-up premium continues in financial year 2019 to 2020.

Further details will be available in 2019.

School improvement monitoring and brokering grant

The school improvement monitoring and brokering grant continues in financial year 2019 to 2020. In April 2019, we will pay the remaining £20 million for academic year 2018 to 2019.

The level of funding from September 2019 to the end of the financial year will be confirmed in due course.

Extended rights to home to school transport

The local authority grant for extended rights to home to school transport will continue in financial year 2019 to 2020. Further details will be available shortly.

Key stage 2 moderation and key stage 1 phonics

The grant for key stage 2 moderation and key stage 1 phonics will continue in financial year 2019 to 2020, and will be paid in August 2019.

Information: schools block funding allocations for 2018 to 2019

The ESFA have published the [schools block allocations for 2018 to 2019](#) for maintained schools (financial year) and academies (academic year).

It is published in relation to the [schools block funding formulae 2018 to 2019](#).

Information: 2018 to 2019 additional capital funding ready reckoner

At the Budget, the Chancellor announced an extra £400 million capital funding for schools in 2018 to 2019. This is in addition to the £1.4 billion already allocated this year to those responsible for school buildings.

We have [published a ready reckoner](#) to help schools and other eligible institutions estimate the allocation they can expect to receive and so plan how to spend the money.

Training/Events

[England China Exchange 2018/19 Shanghai exchange - see a maths mastery lessons in action](#) Maths Hub – London North East
Tuesday 22nd January 2019 and Wednesday 23rd January 2019 (FREE places)
Location: St Francis de Sales R C Junior School

[Train to Teach - Open Evening](#)
31 January 2019 4.30-5.30pm
Location: Colegrave Primary School, Henniker Road, Stratford E15 1JY
Email raz.rahman@colegrave.newham.sch.uk or call 0208 534 0243

[Designated Safeguarding Leads Training](#)
Early Help Partnership Team

14 Jan 2019 9.30 am– 4.30pm
Location: Cleves Primary School, Arragon Road, E6 1QP

[Designated Safeguarding Leads Network Meeting- Spring 2019](#)

28 February 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Location: Forest Gate Community School

Calendar - Events and Deadlines

January / February 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

Diary Dates & Deadlines

12 Jan'19	What About Me? A Newham Nursery Schools Conference
22-23 Jan '19	England China Exchange 2018/19 Shanghai exchange - see a maths mastery lessons in action
18-22 Feb'19	February half term



Email us at newhamconnect@newham.gov.uk

You can send us items for the newsletter

The newsletter copy deadline is

Wednesday 12pm each week

Key Contacts in Newham Council Children's Commissioning

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