

Dear Colleagues

Socrates is supposed to have said that you should confute your opponents' seriousness with jesting and their jesting with seriousness. But I have been reminded that there are some things that it is unwise to attempt to joke about. So to return to the RSE activity, it appears that some of the people behind organising protests over RSE in schools are closely aligned with Hizb ut-Tahrir, an extremist organisation that has a long history of homophobic activities and views. In at least one case, a school has been challenged by an individual with links to this group (with no children at the school) and discussed the issue with that person. This has subsequently been presented by that person's organisation as evidence of successful influence on the school. I'd urge colleagues to be wary of entering any dialogue with any people, however they may represent themselves as community representatives, unless they are parents or carers of children at the school.

As a counterpoint, I was able to attend the annual RE prize giving at Ranelagh School organised by SACRE on Wednesday after school. It's uplifting to see different faith communities (and none, as Claire Clinton would remind me) celebrating discovering what groups have in common, as well as their differences. Both the chair of SACRE, Marie Hardy from Brampton Primary, and chair of student SACRE – whose name I didn't catch – emphasised the enduring message that the people of Newham have more that unites them than divides them.

I love the ambiguity of the word 'enduring' (as in the Ian McEwan novel "Enduring Love"). On the one hand, things last, but there's sometimes a sense that it's very hard work to endure. I've been reminded of that in several meetings over the last week.

Last Friday we had the last meeting of this school year of the Education Partnership Board. This brought to an end the first year of its operation where we have all been feeling our way to establish it as a meaningful and useful forum that will last. The Board reviewed its first year of operation and it was felt it has become a valuable forum for collective discussion between education leaders and the Council of key strategic issues including SEND, place planning and many others. A number of actions were agreed to ensure there is clear communication between the Board and other headteacher groups in the coming year. This will include the chair of the Board providing an update on the Board's work at each Education Partnership Conference.

There was also a very productive discussion on SEND admissions and the challenges that face schools and the Council. The Board agreed we should write to all schools to remind them of their legal obligations and the approach of the Council to take action to enforce this was broadly welcomed. The Board acknowledged the pressures on schools and agreed that use of the Fair Access protocol should be piloted next term to secure a more equitable distribution of pupils with challenging behaviours and SEND (for in year admissions for pupils without EHC plans). The Board was clear that schools do need to follow their legal obligations to admit pupils to avoid children being out of school.

SEND challenges for schools were reinforced on Monday when I visited Sheringham Nursery. The school actively targets 2 y.o. pupils with SEND but, of course, there is no additional (base or top-up) funding for 2 y.o. pupils. Nevertheless, all the research evidence is that early identification and action can both remedy problems and prevent escalation. But the funding pressure for the maintained nurseries puts this at risk. The purpose of my visit was because Julian Grenier, the head, was having a

visit from the shadow minister for Early Years, Tracy Brabin, to look at the work of the Early Years hub established by the GLA. In addition, Sheringham has been designated a Research School by the EEF. The purpose of their Research Schools is to trail approaches to transferring research into classroom practice, and Sheringham will be doing this in partnership with Kaizen School and Little Ilford School. Little Ilford, I was told, has just appointed a research lead, and in another example of endurance, she was a pupil at Sheringham Nursery back in the day.

I was reminded again of the EEF in a meeting with SIAs that was organised for this week. The first part of their agenda focused on the new OFSTED framework and there was an interesting set of exchanges about the curriculum and, in particular, the importance of metacognition and self-regulation. This was very well-presented in the EEF toolkit following their review of international research evidence on the importance of metacognition and self-regulation. It's the development of such useful toolkits for teachers that the 30 Research Schools are engaged in.

You will remember last week I included a reminder about the deadline for the Enrichment Grant. We were really pleased with the response from schools. 47 schools have applied in round one, with a further 23 schools submitting an expression of interest for Round 2. There are a significant number of really innovative proposals and we look forward to seeing them come to fruition in the coming year. Round one schools are receiving confirmations of their 2019/20 grant allocations this week. A further reminder that the deadline for round two applications is 13 September.

The KS2 test results are also in schools this week. Although there's a lot of tidying up of disappication's and so on to go, the results appear in line with last year, which would represent another year of excellent achievement by Y6 pupils in the borough's primary schools.

I have also separately emailed all schools this week concerning the process for the transfer of paper files from primary to Newham secondary schools for pupils entering Y7 in September. This process was previously undertaken by NPW but schools were given notice that would not be the case this year. In the absence of any other arrangements, the Council has stepped in this year, but we need to agree with schools a permanent solution. For a further example of an enduring trope, we don't have any resource to do this, but in an emergency we were able to help (with huge thanks to our Council colleagues in RMS and to Val Naylor for cashing in favours).

Finally, I've been told that Lorna Jackson, the headteacher of Maryland Primary will have worked in Newham for 40 years at the end of this term. She thinks she is the longest serving teacher in Newham and knows that she is the longest serving headteacher. How's that for endurance?

Lastly, congratulations to Lando Du Plooy and his staff at Dersingham Primary School on their recent Ofsted inspection outcome.

Best wishes

Terry Reynolds; Director of Education and Skills

\*The last issue of Newham Connect for the school year will be next week on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – and will contain a director's update only\*

## SEND documents for the Local Offer

Dear Colleagues,

As you will be aware the SEND Working Group has been working on several documents on behalf of the LA which need to be made available on the Local Offer.

The documents have been circulated widely for feedback and I attach for your attention the final versions which will now be placed on the Local Offer with a review date for June 2020.

The documents [attached](#) are:

1. 'Ordinarily Available Expectations'
2. 'Summary of Ordinarily Available Expectations'
3. EHC Process doc

Please contact me if you have any queries.

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## DfE / Ofsted publications, letter to schools, consultations and announcements

[Amanda Spielman speaking at the Victoria and Albert Museum](#) 10 July 2019. Speech. Amanda Spielman spoke at the innovate conference about design and technology in schools and colleges.

[Parent View: toolkit for schools](#) Key facts about the Parent View survey and materials that can be adapted and used by schools to raise awareness with parents. Ofsted Updated: 9 July 2019

[New masterclass to prepare students for independent living](#) New workshops will be available from September to support schools and colleges teach young people about living independently.

Department for Education 10 July 2020

[Healthy schools rating scheme](#) The healthy schools rating scheme is a self-assessment tool designed to help schools improve the health and wellbeing of their pupils. Department for Education 8 July 2019

## Standards and Testing Agency / ESFA Updates

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

### Key stage 2

- **Publication: key stage 2 test results**
- **Publication: key stage 2 scaled score conversion tables**
- **Action: apply for reviews of key stage 2 test results by Friday 19 July**
- **Action: ensure your school has account for tables checking exercise in September 2019**

### Key stage 1

- **Reminder: submit phonics screening check results by local authority's deadline**
- **Reminder: recycle unused phonics screening check materials**

### Primary assessment

- **Reminder: complete our communications survey by 19 July**

## CAMHS - change of telephone number

Newham CAMHS will be changing its telephone contact number from 11th July.

The new switchboard number will be **020 8430 9000**. Please amend any contact lists you're holding locally. Calls to the current number will be diverted for a period of 3 months. The service phased out fax some time ago but the machine will **no longer** work from Tuesday.

Referrals should be sent by e-mail to [elft.enquiries-newhamcfcs@nhs.net](mailto:elft.enquiries-newhamcfcs@nhs.net)

## English and Maths Transition Project Report 18-19 and KS2 Transition Units update

For details of the English and Maths Transition Project report findings 18 -19 and focus for next year click [here](#).

Many thanks to all the Year 6 teachers for delivering the KS2 transition units and for sending the work with the students on Transition Day. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting and for your participation in the Transition Project this year. I have attached the Transition Report evaluating the impact of this year and a link to the video created by Olivea, from St Antony's, reflecting upon the project so far. Certificates are ready to distribute to all schools who have participated. <https://youtu.be/7ilyslxdKXs>

If your primary students still have their transition books, could we ask that these are please dropped to the secondary school before the summer break. Secondary colleagues, could you please ensure your school office is aware of the books and accept them! If you have any feedback for either English or Maths, please do let us know.

For information on the KS2 Transition unit update and message for **FAO English teachers: please see a message from Vivien, Cumberland School** – Click [here](#)

## The Extended Crisis Service

The Extended Crisis Service is a dedicated mental health crisis service for children and young people across City & Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets.

The Extended Crisis Service offers quick and easy access to speak with a CAMHS specialist nurse out of hours, with a focus on therapeutic assessment, working out the right follow up plan for each individual and moving to recovery as soon as possible.

In addition to the existing Monday to Friday 9-5 service, we now have CAMHS nurses based out of hours in the Accident & Emergency Departments at Homerton University, Newham University and the Royal London Hospitals.

The hospital based CAMHS Crisis teams are available from Monday to Friday, 11am - 11pm and at weekend and bank holidays 10am - 2.30pm.

To see a member of the team attend the A&E department at Royal London, Homerton University Hospital or Newham University Hospital.

For more information about the service contact the Nurse Manager or Deputy Team Manager on 0203 222 5600 Mondays - Fridays between 9am and 5pm.

This service is for young people at risk of:

- immediate and significant self-harm;
- feeling emotionally or psychologically distressed;
- having thoughts of suicide or struggling to manage an immediate outburst that puts you or others at risk.

Click [here](#) for the flyer.

## Signs4Life - deaf awareness and sign language workshops in Newham

### 10-week accredited BSL program Guided learning hours – 30 hours

This accredited course is designed to provide a nationally accredited unit of BSL skills for educators, who work with young people and students, who may be Deaf or hearing impaired. Deaf student's experience of communication when they interface with teachers and support staff can often be disappointing. Staff need to be aware of the isolation and frustration many Deaf students experience in their dealings with the various services that make up further and higher education.

For more information, and details of **6-week non-accredited BSL program** Guided learning hours – 18 hours, **Deaf awareness and sign language workshop** Guided learning hours – 3 hours

Click [here](#) for the flyer, and go to <http://www.signs4life.org/>

## Training/Events

### [Designated Safeguarding Lead Training](#)

Tailored to meet school needs and compliance requirements in relation to policy and practice.  
Date - 9 September 2019 9.30 am– 4.30 pm  
Location - tbc

### [Designated Safeguarding Leads Training](#)

Tailored to meet school needs and compliance requirements in relation to policy and practice.  
Date - 15 July 2019 9.30 am- 4.30 pm  
Location - NewVic College

## Calendar - Events and Deadlines

### July / August 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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

## Diary Dates & Deadlines

28 July 2019	Open consultation - SEND & AP provision: <a href="#">call for evidence</a>
29 July – 30 August 2019	School summer break



Email us at [newhamconnect@newham.gov.uk](mailto:newhamconnect@newham.gov.uk)  
You can send us items for the newsletter  
The newsletter copy deadline is Thursday 10am each week

## Key Contacts in Newham Council Education & Skills

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