



NAPE Summer 2017

NEWS

News, Events and Contacts

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1. Vice Chair Despite his heavy work commitments Stuart Swann has agreed to continue as Vice Chair of the association.

2. Strengthening the National Council. The co-option of three new members to the Council has been warmly welcomed. Wendy Scott (Cumbria), David Kirtland (Yorkshire) and Robert Morgan (London) will bring valuable expertise to the work of the Council.

3. Response to DfE Consultation. An acknowledgement of the association's response to the consultation, Primary Assessment in England, has been received from the DfE. Copies of the response are available from Sally Swallow at the NAPE office.

4. Life Membership. The National Council was delighted to award Honorary Life Membership of the association to Freddie Lavender (Bedford) in recognition of his service to NAPE and its local association over very many years.

5. On-line Membership. A sub-committee of the Council has been asked to explore the introduction of on-line membership of the association. It is not intended that such membership should replace conventional membership although it is thought that this may be more immediately attractive to younger colleagues particularly those entering the profession.

6. Primary First The summer issue, no. 19, of Primary First is at the printers and publication date is the 14th July. The editor regrets the lack of a cartoon due to the retirement of our cartoonist and will be pleased to receive suggestions of a talented successor.

After consideration of two competitive tenders The National Council was pleased to approve the continuation of our existing contract with Synergy for the design, printing and distribution of the journal with effect from the 1st September 2017.

7. Media. Contacts with the media have included the TES (Need for equitable funding in respect of deprivation), the Independent (Primary teachers' mental health), the Good Schools Guide (Parental contributions to school budgets), the Guardian (Free meals for all primary children), Home magazine (Starting school) and 5 News (Cuts in primary budgets). Our most recent media release follows:

A Defeat for 11+ Selection

This association welcomes the government's abandonment of its intention to repeal the ban on the establishment of new selective (grammar) schools. Plans to consult on the opening of such schools would have shown how firmly professional and parental opinion is opposed to such a retrograde move.

We can now look forward with confidence to reforming the secondary schools in the 20% of local authorities which cling to the 11+ past. It is time to offer equality of educational opportunity to all children and we must seek cross party agreement to begin a move towards the creation of a fully comprehensive system of secondary schools.

Comprehensive schools have proved their worth in educating all children irrespective of their backgrounds. The research evidence is now irrefutable and is confirmed by international studies undertaken by the OECD. The greater the element of selection the less well an education system is likely to perform.

Our proposal is that grammar schools should be allowed to evolve into academic sixth form colleges. Students choosing academic studies would enter at the age of sixteen. Existing pupils at the schools would continue their education undisturbed but there would be no further entry of eleven year olds. Evolutionary change would take five years and the traditions, even the names, of the grammar schools would be preserved.

8. The Keycolab European Project. The professional development side of the project has been further extended though twilight and all day meetings of heads and staff together with consultations in schools. Our Chair and Vice Chair represented the UK at the fourth meeting of European partners held in Timisoara (Romania) The work of the six UK (Oxfordshire) schools was presented and received much commendation.

9. University of Oxford Seminar. NAPE co-chaired an invited seminar sponsored by the university on the 30th March to discuss recent developments in national primary assessment. The outcomes of the well attended seminar will be published in a forthcoming issue of Forum.

10. EduTech Exhibition. The association is a sponsor and partner of EduTech in the provision of an education technology exhibition at Olympia, London on the 6-7 October 2017. There is no charge for admission to this event which will review new and existing technology and its use in enabling and supporting children's learning.

John Coe, Information Officer

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