

SRD/AD

23 June 2010

To: All Parents/Carers of P7 Pupils

Dear Parent/Carer

## **CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE – ANGUS**

You will have recently received a Curriculum for Excellence information leaflet from Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. The leaflet outlines developments in Scottish Secondary Schools and the proposed changes to qualifications and assessment.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise parents that Angus secondary schools are well placed to meet the challenges presented by this change, and to launch with confidence Curriculum for Excellence in August 2010.

Angus schools have received comprehensive support in preparing the introduction of the new school curriculum, and it is clear that staff have shown great commitment in ensuring they are ready to welcome the new S1 pupils. I trust the following summary of support provided by the education service is useful:

- Our schools have made use of a 4 year Angus Curriculum for Excellence time line and implementation plan
- Advice and guidance to schools on planning, assessing and tracking pupils' learning
- The Angus Curriculum for Excellence 'learning programme', a resource which provides clear guidance about how to manage, organise and assess the new learning outcomes provided in the national Curriculum for Excellence documentation.
- Over the past three school sessions, the main focus of the programme of continuing professional development/professional learning has been on improving the skills and confidence levels of classroom teachers with particular regard to the expectations and challenges of the new curriculum. Across Angus, Curriculum for Excellence has been the major focus of in-service closure days
- Co-operative Learning: This training programme has been successful in helping teachers to manage with increasing confidence active learning methodologies in their routine classroom practice.
- Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing across the Curriculum: A variety of training events have been organised to support non-specialists to be confident in addressing new cross-curricular responsibilities.
- Improving Literacy through Moving Images (Film) Education: Training and professional learning events for staff have enhanced their technical skills and confidence and have enabled them to incorporate successfully Moving Images in Education approaches within literacy and creative arts programmes

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- Linking Learning Across the Curriculum: The provision of related direct support by staff tutors to each secondary school has resulted in schools making a good start to the planning and delivery of interdisciplinary learning projects
- Dedicated training for Head Teachers: Over the past two sessions arrangements have been made to organise a series of Head Teacher workshops in response to management challenges identified by Head Teachers themselves, for example, in relation to the preparation of new curriculum design models and related timetable frameworks.

A range of parental leaflets have been developed to share information. These include leaflets on the 'Values, Purposes and Principles of Curriculum for Excellence', 'Co-operative Learning', 'Active Learning', 'Skills for Learning', 'Life and Work', and 'Interdisciplinary Learning and Numeracy'.

These are available in all schools and can also be accessed at:

<http://www.angus.gov.uk/parentsaspartners/>

As the term now draws to a close our P7 pupils will all have spent time during their induction days in Secondary Schools across Angus. I am confident that when the new term commences in August they will experience exciting, challenging and relevant learning experiences in this new phase of their education.

Yours sincerely



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