



www.nationaleducationtrust.net

NET is an independent foundation dedicated to improving the quality of education nationwide, shaping its future and working to help close the achievement gap

Newsletter 4

February 08

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2008. The New Year sees the continuing expansion of the National Education Trust with a range of new initiatives alongside the continuation of the successful projects we already have underway. This newsletter aims to bring you up to date with the work of the Trust, and features an article by Keith Bartley, Chief Executive of the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) & NET Leading Thinker. We hope you will respond by sending us your comments on this and other articles on the website and by continuing to use our services, participate in NET events and share with us your ideas and good practice. Our contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Celebrating the profession of teaching

Keith Bartley has written this fascinating article for NET to coincide with the publication of this newsletter. In the article Keith writes about some of the challenges facing the teaching profession and the impact that the GTCE will have on teachers over the next four years. Keith writes: "The GTCE wants to focus strongly on a key part of its legislative remit - working to raise the standing of the teaching profession. We want government, opinion formers and the wider public to see teaching in a new light, according it a new respect for teachers' judgement and expertise."

The full article can be found on the front page of our website www.nationaleducationtrust.net

Events programme

Below are some of the highlights of our 2008 programme. For more information, online booking, finding out about new events or reading up about any you have missed, go to <http://www.nationaleducationtrust.net/events.html>. You can also book by email office@nationaleducationtrust.net.

Annual Lecture: This year's lecture will be given by Baroness Morris of Yardley (formerly Estelle Morris, Secretary of State for Education). The event will take place on Tuesday 4 March at Mercer's Hall in London. A few places are still available but please book now to secure your reservation.

Invitation Seminars: NET invitation seminars all take place in early years' centres, schools, colleges and universities; part of the day is spent observing students and staff at work. They are free of charge but places are limited and need to be booked in advance.



- **'Transforming the Secondary School Environment'**. This seminar will be held on Wednesday 12 March at Priory LSST, Lincoln.
- **'Dare to be Different'**. There will be two opportunities to attend this seminar, both organised jointly with NCSL Leadership Network. The first will be held on Thursday 1 May at Red Oaks Primary School, Swindon. The second takes place on Thursday 25 June at Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, Medway.
- **'Academic-Vocational Apartheid: what's the future for the Diplomas?'**. This seminar, a reprise of last year's event at Thamesview School in Kent, will take place on Wednesday 14 May 2008 at Wolverhampton Grammar School.
- **Education Question Time** You can watch a video webcast of our first successful Education Question Time (held at the University of Bedfordshire) at <http://www.nationaleducationtrust.net/events.html> - but why not go one better and come to the next one with *your* questions? It will be held at Oxford Brookes University on Tuesday 17 June.



Special events

- **'What makes a Successful School in the 21st Century?'** NET is supporting this event, organised by 'Inside Government'. It will be held in Birmingham on Wednesday 19 March. NET Director Roy Blatchford will chair the day's programme and speak on NET's vision for successful schools.
- **'Sharing Curriculum Innovation in Primary Schools'** NCSL and NET are to stage a special event in Nottingham on Thursday 5 June. Primary children and teachers from all over the country will come together to share exciting curriculum innovation in their schools. Mick Waters from QCA will attend the day to hear about new developments in the primary curriculum.

NET Independent Services

Our first year saw a high demand for the services of our team of Leading Thinkers and Associates who provide a range of services in state and independent settings, and across all phases of education. NET services include:

- **BLINK** - a visit to your school from one of NET's trained Associates to help you gain insight into improving any aspect of your school's provision, or help you prepare for OFSTED inspection.
- **Sustaining Success** - a four-day programme for primary heads focusing on sustaining successful school leadership. A group of up to 12 headteachers works across a six-month period, linked to one of NET's tutors.
- **Trust Schools** - NET believes the development of Trust Schools will be an important feature in the educational landscape of the future and is pleased to be working with Somervale School, Somerset as its first Trust partner.

For more on NET independent services visit www.nationaleducationtrust.net/services.html

NET 6s&7s Programme

NET is pleased to announce the national launch of '6s & 7s', an early intervention programme, based in primary schools and aimed at six and seven year olds. The project is based on previous and current work carried out in Birmingham and will be launched nationally from September 2008, backed by generous support and funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. You can find out more about this exciting project at <http://www.nationaleducationtrust.net/6s7sProgramme01.html>



NET website

We know, from our webmaster, that many of you use the website, but if you haven't visited it for some time, you may be surprised to see how much it has developed. New input for you to access at www.nationaleducationtrust.net includes:

- **NET Leading Thinkers** - We are delighted to welcome Dr Tessa Stone, Director of The Sutton Trust and Professor Kate Jacques, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean at the University of Bedfordshire as Leading Thinkers. Please visit www.nationaleducationtrust.net/leading_thinkers.html for further details and a full list of Leading Thinkers
- **The Children's Plan** - NET's response to this initiative from the DCSF.
- **School governance** - an opportunity to buy Roy Evans's publication, 'Who governs our schools?'. You can also contribute to our discussion forum on this very important topic.
- **Bilingualism** - a chance to buy Dr Tony Eaude's publication 'Enhancing Achievement for Young Bilingual learners' - discounts available for bulk orders.
- **Articles of the moment** - a regularly updated selection of articles on education drawn from a wide range of newspapers and periodicals, all chosen to stimulate thought and action.
- **Live Wires** - [NET's blog](#) with shorter pieces designed to entertain and amuse, as well as provoke you to respond. It currently features a piece by Maxine Evans: '(wo)men wanted: for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger....'. And can you resist a peep at Diane Hofkins's latest piece entitled intriguingly: 'The Joy of Learning - better than sex?'.
- **Monthly Poll** - an opportunity for you to vote on a topical education issue.
- **Staff Vacancies page** - as the trust expands, details of current vacancies can be found here: www.nationaleducationtrust.net/staff_trustees03.html

NET Advocacy Schools

NET is badging a number of Advocacy Schools, whose features include:



- All around the school there are places of interest, challenge, wonder and reflection
- The leadership of the school is committed to an aspirational culture: one of belief that children and young people can achieve more than they might have thought
- The 'student voice' is listened to and acted upon
- The staff is committed to excellent teaching and an orderly, enthusiastic community
- Governors, parents and local people hold the school in high regard, and are involved in productive discourse about the school's vision and performance
- Certain aspects stand out from the norm, both to those who work in the school, and to visitors who observe: 'Someone's doing something special here'.

We are pleased to announce that Longlevens Primary School in Gloucester will be the first advocacy school, which will partner NET in a number of ways. Details of how you can visit Advocacy schools will appear on our website shortly.

If you think that your school could be a NET Advocacy School, please contact Roy Blatchford, NET Director.

NET's priorities as an independent foundation

The Trust is focused on four key strands of activity:

- **National Resource:** Developing a national resource of excellent practice and powerful initiatives in early years' settings, schools and colleges
- **Independent Services:** Leading high quality school reviews. Providing innovative, personalised training for headteachers, teachers and governors
- **Aspire & Inspire:** Running 'chartermarked' projects for children and young people
- **Policy & Advocacy:** Influencing stakeholders and policy-makers to shape educational policy, locally, regionally and nationally.

And finally...

What NET Funders say:

"We would like to invest in NET because we see the Trust as an important stakeholder in the future development of education."

"We respect your focus as an independent foundation."

The Trust has a number of projects in the planning stage which we hope to develop as funds become available. Please consider supporting NET by making a financial contribution - you can find out how to do this by consulting the 'Join us' page http://www.nationaleducationtrust.net/join_us.html

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