

Walsall Children's Services

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Schools News

December 2008

The newsletter for Walsall schools

Tea with the Mayor for Highest
Achieving Key Stage 2 pupils

**Spotlight on Children's Area
Partnership (CAP)**

Connie Bristow

Integrated Children's
Services Event



Walsall Council

"My Walsall, my future"

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To place an article in Schools News, please contact:
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Tea with the Mayor for Highest Achieving Key Stage 2 pupils

Walsall's top scoring Key Stage 2 pupils – 34 in total – and their families attended a special reception in the Mayor's parlour on 17 November. **Outstanding results** were achieved by four of the pupils who each scored 100 out of 100 in maths, one pupil scored 95 out of 100 in English and five of the pupils scored 80 out of 80 in science.

Mayor Councillor Tom Ansell presented each pupil with a certificate of achievement, a book voucher and a commemorative pen set engraved with the Walsall Council crest.

Tony Stainer, Managing Director, Walsall Children's Services – Serco said "We are absolutely delighted that these young people have achieved such fantastic personal success. This is a real tribute to their hard work and determination, the support they are given by their families and the commitment and dedication of teaching staff in Walsall schools."

Congratulations to our Star Performers in maths:



Star Performers in KS2 maths with the Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall

Harry-Rae Whorton, Pinfold Street JMI School
 Ryan Bhalla, Kings Hill Primary School
 Kyle Thorp, Kings Hill Primary School
 Michael Walker, Whetstone Field Primary School
 Luke Radburn, Ryders Hayes Community School
 Ryan Bair, Lindens Primary School
 Jack Crook, Lindens Primary School
 Omar Rafiq, Blue Coat CofE Junior School
 Dominic Portman, St Anne's Catholic Primary School
 Werner Lewis, Fibbersley Park Primary School
 Thomas Cotterill, Manor Primary School
 Alex Booth, Pheasey Park Farm Primary School
 Daniel Fisher, Pheasey Park Farm Primary School
 Antonia Hulston, Pheasey Park Farm Primary School
 Wesley Rawlings, Pheasey Park Farm Primary School
 Jessie Serrao, Pheasey Park Farm Primary School
 Conor Shore, Pheasey Park Farm Primary School

Our primary schools have continued to flourish this year and our eleven year olds have once again done exceptionally well in their end of Key Stage 2 assessments. As a result of this more eleven year olds than ever before attained the expected level 4 or above in their tests. Overall across all three areas, Walsall is now the 68th best performing Local Authority in the country and the 5th most improved authority nationally between 2007 and 2008.

Councillor Zahid Ali, cabinet member for children's services commented "Walsall Council is incredibly proud of these results – the improvement in maths shows our pupils are now exceeding the national average for the first time and the improvements in English are now greater than the national rate of improvement. Through our partnership with Serco these results continue the trend which has taken the performance of Walsall primary schools to above average nationally."

Congratulations to our Star Performers in English:



Star Performers in KS2 English with the Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall

Mia Georgiou, St Anne's Catholic Primary School
 Haleema Hussain, King's Hill Primary School
 Dominic Walker, Whetstone Field Primary School

Congratulations to our Star Performers in science:



Star Performers in KS2 science with the Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall

Nathan Critch, County Bridge Primary School
 Rosie Cox, Whetstone Field Primary School
 Samuel Taylor, Ryders Hayes Community School
 Kris Turner, Ryders Hayes Community School
 Laura Tynan, Ryders Hayes Community School
 Zoey Millership, Greenfield Primary School
 Samuel Campbell, Leighswood School
 Jade Fellows, Christ Church CofE Primary School
 Connor Doyle, St Mary's the Mount Catholic Primary School
 Madeleine Whitehouse, St Anne's Catholic Primary School
 Alex Noyce, St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
 Matthew Jones, Fibbersley Park Primary School
 Jodie Murray, Pheasey Park Farm Primary School
 Robbie Soteriou, Pheasey Park Farm Primary School

Connie Bristow

- The Consummate Professional



Staff in Consultation and Inclusion Support Services (CISS) and Walsall schools were deeply saddened to learn of the death, after serious illness, of Connie Bristow on 31 October 2008.

Connie came to Walsall from Solihull in January 2004. She joined CISS in the post of Senior Practitioner, Curriculum Development and Differentiation and quickly established herself as a senior member of staff who was a source of great knowledge and expertise in the field of special educational needs. She led on many borough-wide initiatives, including the development of Wave 3 literacy materials and the implementation of P Levels. Her love of language and literacy was evident, as was her attention to detail. There was no better proof-reader than Connie. Anyone who has ever spent time with her will have heard her lament at what she called 'the abuse of the apostrophe'! She possessed a wry wit and a dry sense of humour, and team meetings are not the same without her.

Elaine Smitheman, SENCO at Hillary Street Primary, remembers Connie as "...an inspiration, never wanting a fuss made even when she felt poorly. She kept us on our toes, having high expectations, but at the same time reassuring us and setting a good example for us to follow, always being at the end of a telephone to advise and support.

None of us can take IPM minutes that compare to Connie's! Over the too few years that Connie was our Advisory Teacher she became our friend. The TAs enjoyed the training she provided and the cakes she brought with her! They looked forward to the time they spent working with her. During the time I worked with Connie I felt privileged to call her a friend and will miss her very much. My final memory of the last time I saw Connie was as we joked about the heaviness of our school gates which I was struggling with – the beam on her face and then mouthed 'see you soon' as I let her out...sadly I didn't."

Connie is sadly missed by all her colleagues and friends. Jeannette Barnfield, Deputy headteacher and SENCO at Whitehall Junior, remembers Connie as someone who would "...do the business in school time as well as before and after, taking the minutes at IPMs, talking to staff, working with pupils and meeting with parents. She would also go the 'extra mile' chatting on a personal level. She was really intuitive and could tell at a glance if someone was having a 'bad day'. We spent endless hours after school engaged in conversation. She'd often say, 'I'm not keeping you, am I?' when often it was I who was keeping her after a long, hard day.

I invited her into my classroom

to witness our renditions of "Jabberwocky" and "The Pied Piper" and she was impressed that the children had actually learned the poems. The children grew with pride as she applauded their efforts and their performance.

And that's the effect that the diminutive size 10 had on all those with whom she came into contact, pupils and adults alike. She was a real 'powerhouse' instilling confidence in others letting them grow and indeed blossom. After a consultation, one of our parents appeared upset. When I enquired why she was crying, she said she wasn't upset; she was happy – because someone had actually listened to her. Connie was a great listener. Though she knew she was unwell, she had planned to deliver a staff meeting with me, Connie preparing most of the presentation. Despite my protests, the consummate professional drafted out and emailed the presentation, even commenting on how she was looking forward to our joint training. Sadly she became too unwell to be at the meeting but her presence was felt throughout the Inset session. I shall miss Connie and her warmth and generosity, her kindness, her understanding and her wry sense of humour. God Bless, Connie."

We will all miss her.

Parent Support Advisers Caught on Camera!

Parent Support Advisers were caught on camera recently as filmmakers recorded the successes of the PSA project in schools across the borough during the pilot phase.

Schools have now received and enjoyed their copy of 'PSA – One Year in Walsall' and indeed, many have commented that the DVD format has proved ideal in 'grabbing the attention' of schools in the expansion phase and other interested parties who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to read the lengthy and detailed evidence provided. It has hopefully encouraged and stimulated further participation in parent support methodology.

The evaluation highlights the positive indicators revealed during the pilot phase, and indicates that these are being sustained and developed. There is now increasing evidence being reported of the effectiveness of the parent support role, both by parents and by PSAs themselves. At the same time, the development of the

role is bringing its own challenges including increased demands on PSAs as they become better known.

The DVD 'PSA – One Year in Walsall' celebrates the diverse ways in which PSAs have been used to support parents in need – and even crisis – as well as the many varied parent programmes that are being delivered, complementing delivery during the statutory school day. As headteacher Keith Whittlestone points out to schools that are considering employing a PSA, "I would say go for it because the positive outcomes and the impact that we have seen in the short time we have had a PSA is absolute and significant."

Parent Support Advisers themselves also seem to like the methodology in having a 'foot in both camps.' Dawn Williams at Rough Hay School said, "I really enjoy being a Parent Support Adviser. I'm somebody in school who is not a teacher but who is still accessible to parents. They

can come to me when they need someone to speak to in confidence. Whatever problem they bring to me, we can see it through to the end."

A number of schools have been able to maintain PSA employment through changing the PSA terms and conditions to include other roles such as office work, learning mentor, teaching assistant, attendance officer, family support worker or nursery teacher; and some Extended School Clusters have allocated additional elements of their Extended Service Grant to bolster the funding available for PSA.

Many schools are now well underway with regard to PSA recruitment and we will shortly be announcing appropriate training programmes scheduled for January 2009.

Both PSA Coordinators remain available on behalf of Walsall Children's Services, in a consultancy capacity through Learning Beyond Limited, to support those PSAs and schools who request further information, advice and guidance throughout the expansion phase.

PSA Coordinator Teresa Powney said, "PSA – One Year in Walsall' was great fun to make and now schools say they are considering using a similar format to record and celebrate many other successful school events. DVDs can reach the desired audience in ways that other mediums can't. I think we can all look forward to many more exciting 'feature films' in the future that document the continued success of schools in Walsall!"



For further details of the PSA programme contact Barbara Bennett:

Tel: 07703 741218 **Email:** barbara@learningbeyond.co.uk

Aim Higher for Looked After Children in Walsall

Pupils from the four Black Country authorities – Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton were invited to a 'Reaching Higher' event (Day 1 Wolverhampton University 17 October and Day 2 Beaudesert Camp 13 November)

Day 1 Wolverhampton University 17 October

The aims of the day:

- students become familiar with university life
- students meet other students in other Black Country authorities
- opportunities to meet university students and explore facilities on offer
- aspirations are raised

Of the 60 students attending the event Walsall had 24 students from eight different secondary schools, which was by far the best representation. Staff from the Virtual School and Connexions staff also accompanied the students on the day and took an active part in the activities.

Teams were created using students from all areas, student ambassadors and guests. This gave a competitive edge to the ice breaking activities which were enjoyed by all.

Each group was then taken on an informal tour of the facilities by our student ambassador where we saw the library, computer block, counselling and student help area, sporting and recreational block and importantly the refectory.

The investigative task gave groups the opportunity to explore the Wolverhampton University site, finding opportunities to talk to students and consider the pros and cons of university life in 2008. Posters and newsletters were produced to a very high standard and reflected upon in a plenary session.

All of our students, both looked after children and other Aim Higher students, as well as having their

aspirations raised towards higher education also improved:

- communication skills
- listening skills
- working in a team
- working out of their comfort zone
- investigative skills

Day 2 Beaudesert Camp 13 November

The second day in this Reaching Higher project took place at Beaudesert Camp near Cannock where the focus was on outdoor team building activities. All students said they were looking forward to this but would our staff be as keen to take part?

The aims of the day:

- students challenge themselves and face unfamiliar surroundings and tasks
- students meet and face challenges with other students in other Black Country authorities
- opportunities to meet forces staff and explore career opportunities
- to push personal limits, face fears and develop team building skills
- to develop confidence and demonstrate courage

The weather consistently proved to be typically English and waterproof clothing was certainly the order of the day!

As for Day 1 we had by far the best representation of all the authorities. Of the 50 Black Country students attending 16 of these came from Walsall. The numbers were slightly down compared to the October event due to a GCSE Modular Maths exam taking place

in schools. It was really pleasing to note that six students were brought to the venue during the day by carers or teaching staff after sitting their examination. With the weather conditions this showed real dedication!

Teams were created using students from all four local authority areas, with guests also being allocated. This gave a team focus to all the planned activities which included:

- abseiling
- crate stacking
- jacob's ladder
- army course
- tree climbing
- climbing wall
- low ropes
- ariel runway

During the course of the day barriers were broken, friendships formed, fears conquered, difficult tasks were completed and a team ethos created. The weather may have dampened the clothes but not the spirits of the young people who took part in all activities with a cheerful outlook.

With this new found confidence and the opportunity of accessible Higher Education shown to them the next phase will be individual focus of our looked after children targeting courses of interest to them.

Many thanks to Aim Higher Black Country and to the staff of the Virtual School who also braved the weather and their fears.

Contact: Peter Bishop
Associate Headteacher,
The Virtual School for LAC
Tel: 01922 490230

Transforming Learning - Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital Programme

Children, parents, and teachers in Walsall are being urged to have a say on how a £200 million pound cash investment could transform learning across the borough.

A major consultation programme will get underway in the new year to gather everyone's views on a new twin track initiative that will shape school environments and the way they operate for generations to come.

The transforming learning programme, which incorporates the Primary Capital Programme and Building Schools for the Future initiatives, will boost all Walsall schools, children, young people and their families.

Walsall successfully bid to join the government's national BSF programme in the summer and work is now underway preparing detailed plans to maximise the potential impact of up to £100 million investment in the borough's secondary schools.

Last month Walsall secured a similar amount of £100 million funding from the Primary Capital Programme to revolutionise teaching and learning in primary schools over the next decade.

Together the combined investment offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform learning, creating 21st Century learning environments that engage and inspire young people, their teachers and the wider community.

Walsall Council and Serco are working together to produce a Strategy for Change document that sets out Walsall's vision for the future. It is this that will form the basis of the initial consultation and engagement.

Walsall's Children's Trust will oversee consultation with pupils to ensure that the views of children and young people are heard and help shape developments.

Headteachers from both primary and secondary schools will be involved throughout the process, with representatives on the transforming learning programme board. A headteacher will also be seconded to the programme team.

School governors will also be asked to contribute to Walsall's vision and others from business, trade

unions and the wider community will also be able to feed in their views via a stakeholder group.

Walsall Council is also planning a series of consultation events across the borough later in the spring to engage with parents, residents and community groups.

One of the cornerstones of Walsall's transforming learning programme is to ensure schools become learning hubs for local communities, offering learning opportunities for people of all ages, from the cradle to the grave.

It is also possible that other services, such as health, library, sports and leisure facilities could be co-located in the new schools.

Walsall's intention is to maximise the investment in schools by linking in to current and ongoing regeneration initiatives, such as the development of the Gigaport.

Initially five projects will be directly affected in the first stage with either new or refurbished buildings, but all Walsall secondary schools will ultimately benefit from future phases of the BSF programme.

As well as contributing to the overall borough vision, every school will be asked to produce their own Strategy for Change which will set out in detail specific plans that will take into account specific aims and objectives based on local conditions.

If you would like to find out more about transforming learning in Walsall, check out the special web page at www.walsall.gov.uk/bsf or telephone Karen Adderley on 01922 655813.



Contact: Karen Adderley, Project Manager, Walsall Children's Services
Tel: 01922 655813
Email: adderleyk@walsall.gov.uk

Integrated Children's Services – A New Way of Working

The recent Integrated Children's Services – A New Way of Working event held at the Forest Arts Centre has been hailed by many as a great success

All staff within Children's Services were invited to attend on a drop-in basis in order that as many people as possible could attend and not unduly affect service delivery. Headteachers were also invited and the day gave the opportunity for teams within the Walsall Children's Services directorate to share information and network.

The purpose of the event was to:

- gain an appreciation and understanding of the true depth and breadth of services within Walsall Children's Services
- promote joint ways of working
- highlight key programmes within the work of the Directorate

During the course of the day, there was a rolling programme of three key briefing sessions - The Vision for a New Way of Working, Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Transformation.

A variety of information stands, covering the full range of service teams within the directorate were also available and the 'Voice of the Children and Young people' performances included Park Hall Choir, Hillary Primary Choir, Jane Lane Drumming Band – the Up Beats and St Michael's Choir.

David Brown, Executive Director for Children's Services and Tony Stainer, Managing Director, Walsall Children's Services - Serco, gave the vision presentations, and some of the key messages are below.

Walsall Children's Services Vision is 'To make growing up in Walsall as good as it can be.' The real point though, is that it is as good as it can be anywhere. This means we have high expectations, high ambitions and expect high achievement for our children and young people so that we 'maximise the opportunities for children and young people and their families to enable the economic, social and cultural prosperity of Walsall'.

One of the most critical drivers is the need to raise aspirations for children and their parents and carers. A clear understanding of what is possible, what is achievable and what 'good' actually looks like is essential. This needs to be addressed from a variety of ways, with the clear and joined up involvement of multiple agencies.

Walsall Children's Services directorate will be completely involved in partnership working, within and outside of the Council; in particular with schools, settings and with a range of key delivery partners in Walsall. An important first step is to provide a clear and simple message that Walsall Children's Services is one integrated directorate - founded upon a true partnership.



Leading Aspect Award For Walsall's Virtual School for Looked After Children

Congratulations go to **Karen Dainty**, Special Circumstances & Complementary Education Manager and her team for achieving a **Leading Aspect Award**.

The Virtual School for Looked After Children submitted a detailed application and a successful verification visit took place in early October. The assessor interviewed foster carers, looked after children, professionals from partner agencies and a designated teacher.

The panel of judges commented that the strength of the team's work is: 'Strategic partners providing educational support for looked after children through the Virtual School in partnership with the students and their carers.'

The award acknowledges the high priority that Walsall places on supporting the education of looked after children. It also reflects true multi-agency working and the significance of the role of the corporate parent as the key to success in ensuring that our looked after children achieve the

best possible outcomes in line with Every Child Matters.

Karen says **"A really big thank you is extended to all staff, carers and young people whose hard work and commitment have made this award possible. I know that they are delighted to receive this prestigious award which is well deserved."**

The Leading Aspect Award is a framework that has been developed to recognise and celebrate leading practice and provides accreditation against standards. It is a proven rigorous model that supports improvement. The framework consists of eight sections and provides a process to support self-review. It helps to identify and gain public recognition for leading practice at both a local and national level.



Contact: Karen Dainty, Special Circumstances & Complementary Education Manager, Children's Services - Serco **Tel:** 01922 686222 **Email:** xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxxx.xxx

Wishing all our readers a very Happy Christmas & New Year
Deadline for the January issue of Schools News is 9 January 2009

9 January 2009
6 February 2009
6 March 2009
3 April 2009
1 May 2009
5 June 2009
3 July 2009



In this issue of Schools News we put the spotlight on Pelsall, Rushall & Shelffield Children's Area Partnership (CAP)

Children's Area Partnership - Integrated service delivery at the local level

The Children's Area Partnership (CAP) development is Walsall's response to the requirements of the Children Act 2004 to ensure the delivery of integrated local services is met.

Children Area Partnerships will play a vital role in bringing together the key providers of services for children and young people in local areas and will have a critical role in shaping the delivery of universal and targeted services for children and young people within their area.

The 15 Children's Area Partnerships have been launched in three phases. The areas have been identified in order that a variety of geographical areas and demographics are covered. Most have had strong school cluster collaboration and/or designated cluster coordination arrangements and it is the intention that the Children's Area Partnerships will support and build on the collaborative work in these areas.

All Phase 1 Children's Area Partnerships have actions which they are working on.

Pelsall, Rushall & Shelffield Children's Area Partnership

In the initial stages, Jane Clark, Head of Pelsall Village Primary, took on the responsibility of Chair. The CAP agreed outline priorities and, with the support of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership, organised an initiative called Be Safe, Play Safe for all the schools in the cluster based at Pelsall Village School. Agencies such as the police and fire service were invited to provide child friendly information and advice on safety issues. Other organisations provided information on activities that were available to children and young people.

Through Extended Schools Services, Healthy Road Shows were also organised at two schools to coincide with parents meeting the children after school. Multisport activities and free swimming for children and families were provided at several sites in the communities during the summer holidays. These activities complemented the play schemes and other activities offered by schools in the cluster. The impact of these activities combined with other initiatives was measured against anecdotal evidence and data provided by the police. They appeared to have a positive impact on antisocial behaviour in the area.

In September Extended Schools was subsumed into the cluster's Children's Area Partnership and the Extended Schools Consultant took responsibility for chairing the CAP.

Subsequently the CAP priorities have been confirmed as:

- involving young people
- raising aspirations

The process to identify working groups which will plan projects to deliver these priorities is now in progress.

In the interim we have initiated two projects relating to the priorities.

Raising Aspirations

Research correlates positive levels of aspiration with high levels of self confidence and self esteem. Schools who wish to take part will identify children who they consider lacking self confidence or having low self esteem. The programme is planned to promote self esteem and self confidence through social and physical

activities. Children will be invited to join a programme of indoor and outdoor activities culminating in a residential at the Local Authority's Residential Outdoor Centre. Working with an educational psychologist we are identifying a tool for self assessment of self esteem that will be used to measure any changes. By raising self confidence and self esteem we aim to raise self-confidence that will be reflective in levels of achievement

Involving Young People

School councils were asked to debate two topics (the local environment and safety). Two representatives along with staff from each school met for a morning at the Aldridge Airport Outdoor Centre in order to formulate a collective view to take to the CAP. Following the meeting young people took part in climbing and ropes course activities organised by the centre. In addition to being a reward for their contribution the activities also proved to be a very effective ice breaker. The young people are keen to make these meetings regular events.



For further information please contact John Palmer, Chair of the Pelsall, Rushall & Shelffield Children's Area Partnership or visit the Children's Area Partnership web site at www.walsall.gov.uk

Walsall Christmas Stars

Walsall Music Service formed an amazing choir – Walsall Christmas Stars - of over 500 young voices to sing exciting and well-loved seasonal music at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham on Sunday 30 November. The two concerts were compered by Jenny Jones of BBC Radio WM and also featured Laura Evans - winner of the West Midlands (BBC WM) Pop Stars Competition; Dominic Lawson - Walsall Young Musician of the Year; young stars from the Forest Arts Dance and Music Theatre; The Beacon Wind Band and World Music Groups.

The audience were entertained and thrilled by a dazzling variety of top class performances - dance groups Girlz Groove, Teen Team and Girlz2gether brought the stage alive with routines Rock this Party, Boogie Nights, Disturb Ya and One vision.

Walsall Youth and Junior Theatre performed scenes from the hit musical 'Annie'.

Jane Lane Special School Percussion Ensemble wowed the audience with rousing performances of Echo and Kodo and the Forest Arts Steel Pans Group delighted everyone with a 'Mega Medley'.

The Christmas Stars Choir gave outstanding performances throughout

and delighted the audience as they injected comedy with hand actions and movement to 'Abandon Sheep' and 'The Guys with Camels'.



This month **Ciara Fetherston** from Whetstone Field Primary School in Aldridge reports on her experience of participating in this year's Walsall Christmas Stars Concert at the **Symphony Hall on Sunday 30 November 2008**.

The school choir began to rehearse for this year's event at the Symphony Hall towards the end of September. We rehearsed every Wednesday after school. We started learning the words to the songs by Miss Tracey, our teacher putting them on the whiteboard. Then eventually, once we had got used to the songs we learnt them off by heart.

On Friday 17 October we spent the day at the Forest Arts Centre with other Walsall schools where Sarah Inglis taught us the Christmas Medley and hand actions to some of the songs. I really enjoyed my day there.

On the day of the concert some Walsall schools sang during the afternoon, but our school was taking part in the evening performance. I felt very nervous before the choir caught the coach to the Symphony Hall but by the time we arrived my nerves had gone. We had our final rehearsal at 5.30pm. We then ate our packed lunches before returning to the hall for our performance, by which time some of our parents had arrived.

Message from the Editor:

"I was so incredibly lucky to be invited to this year's Walsall Christmas Stars concert – what **amazing talent** we have in Walsall! Well done to Ciara and all our pupils who took part and a really, really big thank you to Forest Arts for putting on such a wonderful event that was full to the brim with Christmas Magic!

Overall my favourite song was Abandon Sheep which seemed to be very popular with the audience!. I also really enjoyed watching the Girlz2gether dance group and joining in with the Finale with all the other musicians. Also my school friends and I thought the compere Jenny Jones was hilarious and we couldn't stop laughing.

We left the Symphony Hall feeling very pleased with our performance but also very tired!

Special thanks to the Midcounties Co-operative for sponsoring the event; everyone at **Forest Arts**, the **headteachers, teachers and 'stars'** of all the **participating schools**:

Beacon Primary
Bentley West Primary
Blakenall Heath Junior
Blue Coat C of E Junior
Butts Primary
Castlefort JMI
Christchurch C of E JMI
Chuckery Primary
Cooper & Jordan C of E Primary
Delves Junior
Edgar Stammers Primary
Elmore Green Primary
Harden Primary
Hillary Primary
Holy Trinity C of E Primary
Jane Lane – A Specialist College for Cognition & Learning
King Charles Primary
Leamore Primary
Leighswood
Lindens Primary
Lower Farm Primary
Meadow View JMI
Millfield Primary
Moorcroft Wood Primary
North Walsall Primary
Old Church C of E Primary
Park Hall Junior
Pheasey Park Farm Primary
Pinfold Street JMI
The Radleys Primary
St Anne's Catholic Primary
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary
St John's C of E Primary
St Michael's C of E Primary
Whetstone Field Primary

Walsall's 3rd Annual Anti-Bullying Conference

Molly Vaughan, aged 11 of Shelfield Sports and Community College reports in her own words on this year's Anti-Bullying Conference.

Walsall's 3rd Annual Anti-Bullying Conference was a special day, because it was the first conference that was presented by the Anti-Bullying Committee, who did a great job all day. Walsall's 3rd Annual Anti-Bullying Conference started with a bang with a dance by girls from Willenhall Sports College, and an impressive performance of "You've Got To Pick A Pocket Or Two". What a start!

Sharon Tott, Interim Head of Access and Entitlement then came on stage to introduce the Anti-Bullying Committee to the audience. The audience were then shown some videos of the committee introducing ourselves, even though it was a bit embarrassing to watch ourselves! After the videos Spiros and Rachel, who are the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee talked about what the committee do and how important stopping bullying is. **Frank Barnes Assistant Managing Director for Participation** praised everybody for their hard work towards anti-bullying but said there is still more we can all do. He also said how important it is that everybody works in partnership. Councillor Zahid Ali said as well how impressed he was with Spiros and the committee. The councillor said how pleased he was with how much Walsall schools have got better over the years. That is something we should all be proud of!

Dance Sansaar got the crowd clapping with their drumming, dancing and singing - they even got an extra round of applause because it was two of their birthdays! After that everybody needed a drink so after Scott Gospel told every body to sit back and relax we all watched Joe's Story, a sad film about how nasty bullying can get and how it can stop. During the break everybody got the chance to walk around and look at the stands. It was good to meet other people who are affected by bullying too and it gave everybody the chance of winning the raffle. When we got back to our seats Jane Lane choir sang a brilliant version of "Lean On Me" and read out some poems.

Next came the bit that every body was waiting for... the competition winners! This year there were so many



entries and so many winners it is impossible to name all of them. **So thank you to everybody who made a flag, designed a t-shirt, made a film or did a poster. And a big well done to everybody who won a prize.** There were also loads more entries for the Tell Us What You Do Award which was won by St Thomas More; then Spiros, Rachel and Andrew gave out the first set of Charter Standard Awards. **Congratulations to all the people that won a bronze, silver or gold award!** Next year we hope there will be even more schools than this year!

After the awards were given out we had lunch – a break we all needed! The committee members told people where to go to have their dinner. After dinner people went to their workshops like Dance Sansaar, Gez Walsh, SportsPlus, Walsall College and Aldridge Youth Theatre. I went to Gez Walsh, who was really funny! Just like last year he made everybody laugh and my favourite poem was "The Spot on my Bum".

To end the day everybody went outside into the stands for even more fun! Adrienne Katz from the Anti Bullying Alliance said a big thank you to the committee for organising such a brilliant day. She thanked everybody for coming and helping to make the conference so fantastic! Then as the balloons were being launched April Bennet sang a beautiful song called "Wishing On A Star".

In Councillor Zahid Ali's speech right at the start of the conference he spoke about how much Walsall schools have improved. He said that we should all feel success, pride and joy about this. Success pride and joy is something that we can all feel about Walsall's 3rd Annual Anti-Bullying Conference!

The committee hopes everybody enjoyed it that came and if you didn't come, make sure you do next year!

Calling all young journalists!

Would your pupils like to write an article for Schools News? We would really like to feature our 'young reporters' alongside their piece of work.

For more information, please contact the Communications Team on 01922 686297 or Email: @co.com

Young reporter Kevin Taylor of Class 11 tells us what his school - Harden Primary - did for Anti-Bullying Week

17th- 21st November Anti-Bullying Week. In our school we did a lot about anti-bullying!

Monday

me, Cally, Jade and Liam made our own anti-bullying t-shirts to enter a competition at tomorrow's Anti-Bullying Conference!

Tuesday

went to Walsall 3rd Annual Anti-Bullying Conference with Mr Reynolds. We all liked the conference because now we know what other people do in different schools about bullying.

Wednesday & Thursday

everybody in our school did poems, posters and stories and Mr Reynolds and Mr Harrison did assemblies on bullying.

Friday

Blue Friday! Almost all the pupils and staff came to school in something blue - one boy even dyed his hair blue! Blue Friday is fantastic because it gets some people to do something for anti-bullying. In our school we will carry on doing things for anti-bullying all the time.

Staff and pupils at Harden Primary School supporting Blue Friday!



Black Country Challenge Student Awards

On 26 November 2008 the Black Country Challenge Student Awards ceremony took place at the Public Gallery, West Bromwich, Sandwell



Pupils from across the region attended the awards ceremony to hear who had won prizes that 'money can't buy'. Black Country Challenge Minister Jim Knight congratulated the winners and also praised the 'Star Pupils' who were nominated by their headteacher for outstanding achievements and contribution in school and their wider community.

Mr Knight said "Through the Black Country Challenge we are investing £28m over three years to help all schools improve their performance. The programme is also supporting more schools to become outstanding, and will significantly help children in challenging circumstances to achieve more.

"A key part of the programme is to raise pupils' aspirations and celebrate their success. There are wonderful young people achieving great things in the Black Country and tonight we can be proud of their success."

Congratulations to the winners of the Black Country Challenge Student Awards:

• Music Award

Stephen Mason, James Bloor, Fern Richards and Sophie Wilson, St Thomas More Catholic Business & Enterprise College, Walsall

• New Media Award

Chris Price and Stephen Swan, Shelfield Sports and Community College, Walsall

• Performing Arts Award

Saimah Anwah, Hill Crest School, Dudley

• Writing for the Media Award

Nicole Howe, Windsor High School in Dudley

• Science Award

Katherine Lilley, Hill Crest School in Dudley

Well Done! to the Black Country's Star Pupils:

- Fatima Asif, Joseph Leckie Community Technology College, Walsall
- Mathew Baker, St Thomas More Business & Enterprise College, Walsall.
- Katie Broadway, Frank F Harrison Engineering College, Walsall
- Keyleigh Fergusson, Willenhall School Sports College, Walsall
- Spiros Georgiou, Barr Beacon Language College, Walsall
- Adam Holland, Sneyd Community - A Specialist Maths and Computing College, Walsall
- Robert Moore, Shelfield Sports & Community College, Walsall
- Julia Turner, Darlaston Community Science College, Walsall
- Beth Hancox, Bishop Milner School, Sandwell
- Hayley Henry, Menzies High School, Sandwell
- Simon Baldwin, The Earls High School, Dudley
- Paul Carpenter, Kingswinford School, Dudley
- April Riley, Bristnall Hall School, Dudley
- Pavon Aujla, Parkfield High School, Wolverhampton

Presenting the awards Black Country Challenge Chief Adviser Sir Geoff Hampton said "I am delighted to announce the winners of the five categories of this, the first Black Country Challenge Student Awards. I hope we are starting a local tradition to have an evening that celebrates the talents of this region's young people.

I know the judges have been very impressed by the standard of entries across the categories of Music, New Media, Performing Arts, Writing for the Media and Science. I would like to thank the Award sponsors for their support of local talent. I hope the winners will now enjoy their great prizes which include working with the Birmingham Conservatoire, making a film with Icen Productions, working for the Express and Star, seeing your winning script performed by actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company or spending the day at the National Physical Laboratory, sponsored by Serco."

More information about the Black Country Challenge can be found at:
www.theblackcountrychallenge.co.uk



Embedding Every Child Matters in Walsall

For over two years Walsall Children's Services - Serco has organised a SEN Involvement Programme for schools in the borough. The programme had three aims:

1. To further embed SEN and inclusion in Walsall
2. To take the SEN policy and Delivery Plan forward in a way which continues to involve stakeholders in shaping the future
3. To consolidate SEN policy, provision and support in Walsall as amongst the best in the country

The programme's modules were of interest to headteachers, SENCOs/ Inclusion Coordinators, SEN Governors and colleagues from Walsall Children's Services - Serco with a concern for further embedding SEN and Inclusion in Walsall. In the summer term 2007 the module had a simple title of 'Every Child Matters?' Our objectives were:

- to agree a shared understanding of children and young people with SEN and disabilities being an integral part of ECM
- to identify key signposts in ECM and their links to SEN
- to develop a framework of action
- to explore meaningful multi-agency working

The outcomes identified for the module were:

- a working document which demonstrates a clear understanding of the signposts
- a clear understanding of how SEN events and activities contribute to the ECM agenda
- a shared understanding of key features of multi-agency working

The key outcome was a working document. This finished document includes links with other plans and developments both nationally and locally and web links where possible.

Websites/Email

- Every Child Matters <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>
- Children and Young People's Plan <http://www.walsallchildrensplan.org.uk>
- Vision for Inclusion: Email: snapps.admin@walsallcs.serco.com
- SEN Policy & Plan: Email: snapps.admin@walsallcs.serco.com
- Disability Access in Education Strategy Email: ciss@walsallcs.serco.com
- Multi-agency Disability Strategy www.walsall.nhs.uk/Corporate/Governance/Children_disability.asp
- Personal Care Guidelines: Email: ciss@walsallcs.serco.com
- School Access Plans <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sen/schools/assessability/accessibilityplanningproject/>
- Disability Equality Scheme http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/RightsAndObligations/DisabilityRights/DG_10038105
- Healthy Schools <http://www.healthyschools.gov.uk>
- Transition Policy and Guidelines Email: christine.pedley@walsallcs.serco.com
- Building Schools for the Future <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/bsf>
- 14-19 Strategy <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/14to19/strategyandimplications>
- Excellence in Walsall Plan <http://www.walsallcs.com/eiw/excellence-in-walsall.html>
- National Service Framework http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NationalServiceFrameworks/Children/DH_4089111
- Removing Barriers to Achievement <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primary/publications/inclusion/883963>
- Every Disabled Child Matters <http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp>

In an attempt to be as user-friendly as possible a glossary was included for those colleagues who might be new to SEN and disability. Each of the five Every Child Matters outcomes included a national overview with pertinent considerations reprinted from SENCO Update¹. The DCSF has produced the Special Educational Needs/Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Self-Evaluation Framework to support local authorities (LAs) in reviewing and evaluating strategy, services and provision for children and young people with SEN and LDD. The outcomes were then looked at in terms of the local perspective. Colleagues had shared in the SEN Involvement Programme what kind of activities they were using to achieve the outcomes and what evidence

they were capturing. The final aspect was the multi-agency links that colleagues had found useful. The document is presented in tabular format and covers the following five areas:

1. targets and indicators
2. outcomes
3. how to achieve outcomes
4. evidence
5. multi-agency links

The pages for 'Achieve Economic Wellbeing' show the current stage of development of the document.

¹The extracts were first published in SENCO Update, by Optimus Education, Tel: 0207 954 6406, website: www.teachingexpertise.co.uk and were included in the document with kind permission from Optimus Education.



Every Child Matters

Outcome 5. Achieving economic wellbeing. Issues from the SEN Self-evaluation framework to consider include:

- Arrangements for, and impact of, Year 9 transition reviews
- The extent and quality of transition reviews held regarding transition to adult services, and the involvement of adult services in this process. The degree to which services and families work together to plan for and implement a multi-agency and personalised approach to transition
- The effectiveness of the Connexions service in providing appropriate advice to children and young people with LDD re future options and in coordinating arrangements
- Progress made in developing a flexible range of provision to meet needs of young people aged 14-19, any gaps identified and plans/progress in addressing these including liaison with the LSC and other partners
- Progress made in reducing the percentage of young people aged 16-19, identified as having SEN/LDD, who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)

5. Achieve Economic Well Being

Ofsted Judgement 5.7: Children/Young people with difficulties and/or disabilities are helped to achieve economic well being

| Targets and Indicators | Outcomes | How to Achieve Outcome | Evidence | Multi-agency links |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| 16-19 year olds not in education, employment and training | Engagement in further education, employment and training on leaving school | All children/young people achieve basic skills in maths (numeracy), English (literacy), ICT, life skills and that there is a clear transition at each school transfer. | Provision is sufficiently flexible to enable young people to review and revise the choices they have made | Connexions involvement from Year 9 onwards |
| % 19 year olds achieving L2+ or NVQ2 or equivalent | CYPP with LDD receive impartial information, advice and guidance on education, training and employment post 16 | Drop in Jobcentre Plus team for parents | Information and support is provided on benefit entitlement | |
| % 16-30 year olds participating in higher education | Information and support is provided on benefit entitlement | Family learning activities to build skills with creche facilities during training. | | |
| | Sign posting parents to opportunities to return to learning | Ensuring work experience placements for all pupils | | |
| | Ensuring schools deliver a broad and balanced curriculum | A clear and defined transition plan with early careers advice for pupils with LDD. Access to appropriate alternative curriculum in KS4 if appropriate | | |
| | | Using role models from the workplace who have disabilities | | |
| | | Role of parent support advisors developed to cater for pupils with LDD | | |
| | | Extended schools - give opportunity for parents to return to work | | |
| | | Signposting for benefits, etc eg. DLA, EMA | | |

The document is being sent to all schools and will be put on Walsall Children's Services - Serco website. This will mean that the document can be reviewed and updated as necessary

Contact: Dr Rob Rodgers SEN Planning and Development Manager, **Tel:** 01922 686399
Email: rob.rxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxco.com

WREMAP - Tell me what I need to know

‘Tell me what I need to know’ is a website to help parents, particularly those from Black and Minority ethnic, refugee, asylum-seeking and traveller communities, to support their children’s education more effectively. It helps parents/carers and schools to work in partnership as co-educators of children and young people.

This is just one aspect of the Runnymede Trust website’s Real

Histories Directory which will help you to fulfil your duties under Community Cohesion, Well-Being and Race Equality.

Belonging is another fantastic resource; comprised of 43 short films - three minutes long - made by immigrant children from London, Lisbon and Paris - this can be used in PHSE, Geography (migration and settlement), media and other curriculum areas to show the pupil voice.

Contact: Julie Griffiths,
Senior WREMAP Consultant
Tel: 01922 686266
Email: julie.griffiths@walsallcs.serco.com

Visit the website at: www.realhistories.org.uk

Pupil Support

Report on Fixed Term, Permanent & Reintegration Figures November 2008

New DCSF reporting criteria means that exclusions of 5 days or less do not have to be reported to the LA until the end of term.

| Fixed Term Exclusions | November 2007 | Days Lost November 2007 | November 2008 | Days Lost November 2008 |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Secondary | 288 | 778 | 105 | 427.5 |
| Primary | 45 | 104 | 14 | 46 |
| Special | 30 | 56.5 | 1 | 2 |
| Totals | 363 | 938.5 | 120 | 475.5 |

| Permanent Exclusions | November 2007 | November 2008 |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Secondary | 5 | 10 |
| Primary | 1 | 1 |
| Special | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 6 | 11 |

The deadline date for the next edition of Schools News is noon on Friday 9 January 2009

Community Cohesion in Action -

School Linking

On 1 September 2007 the new duty to promote Community Cohesion came into effect for schools and from 1 September 2008, HMCI has a duty under section 5 of the Education Act 2005 (as inserted by section 154 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) to report on the contribution made by schools to community cohesion.

Inspectors will be looking to see what contribution schools – those with a diverse population and those which are less diverse or monocultural - are making to community cohesion. Where a school is predominantly monocultural the guidance to inspectors states, “...where the pupil population is less diverse or predominantly of one socioeconomic, ethnic, religious or non-religious background, more will need to be done to provide opportunities for interaction between children and young people from different backgrounds.”

School linking projects which allow interaction between children from different backgrounds are not new to Walsall. However the following project is slightly different because the aim is for pupils to meet up regularly over the next two years and not just a one off event.

The headteachers from Croft Community Primary School and Watling Street Primary School began planning their community cohesion linking project in the summer term. In September this year they organised the initial ‘getting to know each other’ event.

Approximately 25 Yr 5 pupils from each school spent a day at Upton Warren – an outdoor education centre in Worcestershire. Activities available included a range of team building exercises and traditional water sports. Pupils were put into groups of eight, four pupils from each school, two boys and two girls.

It took a while for the groups to bond but the activities helped this to happen.

By the end of the day the pupils had gelled, they were talking freely to each other and looking forward to their next event and seeing each other again. It was heartening to see pupils moving outside of their familiar social settings and developing new friendships through team building activities and the sports activities which were led by Rod Dixon, headteacher of Croft Community Primary School. The headteachers have planned for pupils from both schools to visit each other’s schools in the near future.

One highlight of the day was when Les Powell, headteacher of Watling Street Primary rescued some of the pupils who had built a raft. When it began to sink she selflessly waded and swam through the cold water to bring the pupils and raft to the safety of the shore.



This is a great example of children in mono-cultural schools working and socialising with children of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds through outdoor education experiences leading towards future joint curriculum activities to break down barriers to cohesion, promote greater understanding and respect for each other and for the diverse range of cultures and faiths represented in Walsall and beyond. We would love to hear from other schools about how they are contributing towards promoting community cohesion.



Contact: Javid Akram, WREMAP Consultant
Raising Achievement for Pakistani & Bangladeshi Pupils
Tel: 01922 686267
Email: jaxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxco.com

School Travelwise:

Your essential tool to travel to school

The website www.schooltravelwise.org.uk is a journey planning and travel information portal available **free of charge** to every school in Walsall.

The web portal is particularly useful to parents who are relocating in Walsall or selecting schools for the first time as it has a **search facility for school type**, faith, and independent, those which have specific specialist requirements or extended school provision such as Breakfast Club. The search can be linked to a specific postcode and will display schools which fill the selected criteria.

Parents are not the only beneficiaries of the site as it can be used by pupils, staff (as a teaching resource and journey planner) visitors to your school site and the wider community.

The site can be linked to the school's existing virtual learning platform and can also display information relevant to the school such as the school prospectus, school travel plan and school travel plan reviews which are then accessible as public documents.

The Brownhills Community Technology College (CTC) home page contains a wealth of information available to the user - a calendar, diary of events and online mapping features. The benefit of this feature is the accessibility to sustainable travel options at the school. Through the public transport icons, users can access timetables and routes for journeys around the school locality together with walking and cycling information.

Journey planning


Brownhills Community Technology College


Deakin Avenue, Brownhills, Walsall, West Midlands
WS8 7QG
01543 452886
postbox@brownhills.walsall.sch.uk

[More Information](#)

Get directions here

Enter Your Postcode

 Walking

 Bus, Road & Rail

The 'get directions here' facility gives the opportunity to select walking or bus road and rail travel. This then links to external sites for each activity.

The promotion of sustainable methods of travel assists schools to deliver key elements of their travel plans, helping to address the problems of congestion and encourage walking and cycling as healthy travel options. It also enables schools to assist pupils with transition from Yr 6 to Yr 7 providing a valuable resource to facilitate this work.

The user groups at the school can add information for a wide variety of activities or events at the school. This gives the users an opportunity to update their own specific page via the school travelwise administrator at the school.

The administration of the site is relatively easy to maintain with all central changes of data across the borough uploaded from the Local Authority administrator and data from school level administered at that level. To date almost 50 Walsall Schools have registered and Brownhills Community Technology College is using the site to its full potential.

For your school to take advantage of this exciting innovation **free of charge**, just contact Kathryn Parr on Tel: 01922 652511 or Linda Downing on Tel: 01922 652531 at Walsall Council for more information - or better still log onto the site www.schooltravelwise.org.uk and register your school for more information.

Farmington Fellowships

for Teachers of Religious Education and Headteachers

The Farmington Institute

The aim of the Farmington Institute is to support and encourage teachers of Religious Education in schools, and Headteachers working on values and standards. It is financed by the Farmington Trust.

The Institute awards Fellowships to teachers of Religious Education in schools and Headteachers, publishes discussion papers and arranges conferences.

What types of Fellowships are available?

The Fellowships may be divided into two types: university-based and school-based. Teachers given university-based Fellowships will spend most of their Fellowship time at one of the selected universities or colleges.

What subjects may be studied?

Fellows are free to study any aspect of Religious Education they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of R.E. in schools. Occasionally, the Institute, in conjunction with one of its partner universities or colleges, may advertise for an R.E. teacher to undertake research on a specific topic which is relevant to R.E.

How much will it cost?

The Fellowships will cover the cost of tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale.

Applications

Application forms can be downloaded from the Farmington website, www.farmington.ac.uk available under 'Farmington Fellowships'.

Alternatively, application forms are available from the address below.

The closing date for applications for the academic year 2009-2010 is 9 February 2009.

Applicants may be asked to come for interview by the Selection Board. Interviews for Fellowships will take place in March 2009.

Contact: The Farmington Institute, Harris Manchester College, Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3TD,
Tel: 01865 271965, **Fax:** 01865 271969, **Email:** farmington@hmc.ox.ac.uk Web: www.farmington.ac.uk



Presents A World War Two Drama Theatre-in Education Project:

'Idlewomen'

has been designed to meet **KS2 History Unit 9**

'What was it like for children during the war?'

Arts Council
England funded –
Free
performance to
schools



For more details, or, to make a booking, please contact us on **Tel:** 01384 816280 or
Email: fizzog@thorns-s.dudley.gov.uk

Tales of Old Mars....

Mars is now a lifeless world but imagine it 50,000 years ago – there were rivers, seas, forests and martians...

Kevin McCann is now taking bookings for this **one-day workshop, which is aimed at reluctant writers**. It will allow your pupils, through fantasy, to explore the landscape of their own imaginations, looking at the familiar and the alien, the factual and the fictional.

Elements, which might be included, are:

- martian beasts and birds
- martian myths and legends
- martian alphabets
- martian science
- martian history and customs and
- why mars became a lifeless world...

As well as producing stories and poems, scriptwriting can also be included by arrangement.

Kevin normally works with one class sized group for a day or two groups for half a day each. The cost of working with Kevin for a day is **£300 plus travel** from Liverpool and overnight accommodation if required. We welcome bookings from school clusters.



To book this workshop or to discuss further, please **Email:** helen@topofthetree.info or
Tel: 07803 052047 after 4pm

R.E. SACRE Conference

Title: R.E. in the 21st Century
Date: 5 March 2009
Venue: Banks's Stadium, Bescot, Walsall
Cost: £150 per delegate



Walsall Local Authority's R.E. conference this year is to support the important work being done in our schools and to give all teachers with responsibility for RE across the key stages, the opportunity to contribute to this process.

We have been able to secure a really exciting group of presenters including:

- **Lat Baylock**, renowned for inspiring practical classroom ideas
- **Lizzie McWhirter**, with a wide experience of primary school teaching and innovative in using Godly play to support bereavement work in schools.
- **Julie Grove**, one of the authors of 'a gift to a child'

During the day there will be a number of **workshops** facilitated by the presenters as well as a specific **consultation session focusing on the agreed syllabus**. There will also be an exhibition of R.E. learning and teaching **classroom resources**.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend what should be a valuable and rewarding day and we look forward to your contributions.

Closing date: Friday 13 February 2009

To book a place on this conference please contact: Karen Fellows on **Tel:** 01922 686491 or
Email: karen.fellows@walsallcs.serco.com

Vulnerable Children Training Day

Title: Building Today for a Confident Tomorrow. A Multi-Agency Response to Vulnerable Children
Date: Tuesday 3 February 2009
Venue: Fairlawns Hotel, Aldridge
Cost: £50 per delegate

Walsall Children's Services - Serco are holding a one day conference which will **highlight the support available to Walsall's vulnerable children**.

The day will consist of a series of **workshops and presentations** about the positive action that is being taken to support our vulnerable children and young people. This is in line with the Government's agenda to support children in need.

Information including application forms will be sent to all schools at the beginning of the Spring Term 2009. Cost per delegate is £50 and **places are limited**.



For further information please contact: Karen Dainty on **Tel:** 01922 686222, **Email:** karen.dainty@walsallcs.serco.com or Karen Grandison on **Tel:** 01922 686375, **Email:** karxx.xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxco.com

The Diary - January 2009

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Mon 5 | Health and Safety Training |
| Wed 7 | Access Arrangements for Key Stage 2 |
| Fri 9 | Ruth Miskin Refresher Training |
| Mon 12 | KSI Mathematics Programme: 'Enhancing Learning Within Mathematics' |
| Wed 14 | Food Hygiene |
| Thu 15 | Leading From The Middle – Cohort 10 (6) Introductory Training for Support Staff (1) |
| Fri 16 | Literacy Coordinators network meeting New Teaching Assistants Training (5) Maths Coordinators network meeting |
| Mon 19 | Successful Annual Reviews Introductory Training for Support Staff (2) HLTA Taster Day Gain Postgraduate Accreditation from your Induction Year |
| Tue 20 | CIEH L2 Award Principles of COSHH Secondary EMA Coordinators network Gifted and Talented Successful Annual Reviews Schools Forum meeting at Alumwell BEC An introduction to being a Governor – Governor Training |
| Thu 22 | EMA Specialist Training – EAL, Inclusion and Diversity An introduction to being a Governor – Governor Training |
| Fri 23 | Paediatric First Aid (1) |
| Tue 27 | Introductory Training for Support Staff (3) Manual Handling Assessor |
| Wed 28 | Child Safeguarding: Level 2 Handling Disclosures Emergency First Aid Governor's Staffing Responsibilities – Governors Training |
| Thu 29 | Share Training CIEH L3 Award Principles and Practice in Risk Assessment – (course full) SENCO School Improvement Forum 2008-2009 |
| Fri 30 | ICT Subject Leader Development Day KS3 Share Training (2) Paediatric First Aid (2) |

For details of all ICT courses contact ICT Service desk, on (01922) 686300;
Email: ict.courses@walsallcs.serco.com; or visit www.walsallcs.com

For details of all other courses contact Karen Fellows, Office Manager,
Workforce Development on (01922) 686491; or visit www.walsallcs.com

Don't miss the deadline for the next issue of Schools News
- noon on Friday 9 January 2009