

Message from Patrick Leeson

E Bulletin - 2 October 2014

Dear Colleagues

Ofsted Update and Agenda for Heads Briefings 13 and 17 October 2014

We continue to make progress in increasing the number of good and outstanding schools in Kent. At the end of the last school year, July 2014, 75% of schools were good and outstanding compared to 68% at the same time in 2013 and 59% in the previous year. In 2010-2011 only 55% of schools were judged good or better. The national average is now 80%.

This latest figure for Kent includes 73% of Primary schools, 82% of Secondary schools, 83% of Special schools and 91% of Pupil Referral Units. 91% of early years settings are good or outstanding. This compares with 66% of Primary schools, 75% of Secondary schools and 75% of Special Schools in July 2013. Nationally 71% of Secondary schools and 81% of Primary schools are now good or outstanding.

Currently, 77% of pupils attend a good or outstanding school. This includes 72% of Primary pupils, 83% of Secondary pupils, 88% of pupils attending Special schools and 96% of pupils attending a PRU. This equates to 25,000 more children and young people receiving a better education compared with last year. In 2012, 62% of pupils in Kent attended a good or outstanding school and this increased to 70% in 2013.

District	% Good and Outstanding Schools 2013	% Good and Outstanding Schools 2014
Ashford	72	78
Canterbury	59	71
Dartford	60	73
Dover	83	82
Gravesham	67	69
Maidstone	56	62
Sevenoaks	71	74
Shepway	70	74
Swale	68	76
Thanet	67	77
Tonbridge and Malling	70	80
Tunbridge Wells	77	79

While our improvement rate has slowed overall, some districts have made good improvements. The most improvement was achieved in Thanet, Canterbury, Dartford, Swale and Tonbridge and Malling.

For Primary schools the highest percentages of good and outstanding schools are in Dover (87%) and Ashford (82%), while the lowest are in Maidstone (53%) and Gravesham (62%) and Dartford (67%).

The highest performance for Secondary schools is in Dartford, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge and Malling where all schools are good or outstanding, and the lowest is in Ashford and Dover where only half of Secondary schools are good or outstanding.

The improvement rate needs to increase further. Overall, only 61% of the schools inspected last school year (99 out of 165) were judged good or outstanding, which is still some way from where we need to be. The national average is 67% of schools recently inspected, judged to be good or outstanding.

Of the 128 Primary schools inspected over the year only 54% (66) achieved a good or outstanding outcome. 26 Secondary schools were inspected last year and 81% (21 schools) were judged good or better. Likewise, of the 12 Special schools inspected last year 75% (9 schools) got a good or outstanding judgement. This is very positive.

Heads Briefings 1.30-4.30 pm 13 and 17 October

The programme for the Heads meetings is as follows:

- Schools results in 2014
- New National Curriculum and Assessment
- Supporting Computing in the new National Curriculum
- Review of Health Needs PRUs and new Health Needs Service
- Roll out of Early Help and Preventative Services and new CAF process
- KAH and next developments with school collaborations
- Future Options for the buy- back of school services
- Priorities for the coming school year

Monday 13 October: 13:30 -16:30, Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Hollingbourne, Nr Maidstone

Friday 17 October: 13:30 – 16:30, Ashford International Hotel, Ashford

To book a place at a Headteacher meeting please email: eypsupportteam@kent.gov.uk

Attendance and School Absence Penalties

There appears to be a need to clarify the position on the use of statutory measures for dealing with attendance. These remain in place, and although we are trying to put more emphasis on earlier help and prevention so that penalties and court action are a last resort, there should be no suggestion that these sanctions are no longer available to schools.

If any cases have been pulled back from court action or the use of a penalty notice it should only be after discussion and agreement with the school.

Schools are able to issue penalty notices in their own right, but following a previous consultation with schools the local authority issues penalties on behalf of schools as we are responsible for any subsequent legal proceedings. DfE Penalty Notice Guidance advises that Notices must not be issued unless a local authority is prepared to proceed with legal action.

The usual practice is that schools request Penalty Notices to be issued in relation to unauthorised term time holidays or a minimum of 5 days unauthorised absence in a current (old) term. In the event of non-payment, proceedings are usually brought for failure to ensure a child's regular attendance at school under section 444, Education Act 1996. Legal proceedings may also be initiated under section 444, where the school's and EWO interventions have failed to reduce persistent absence. A successful prosecution

depends on very clear evidence being available in line with the Crown Prosecution Service Code of Conduct.

We are now attempting to address persistent absence or high rates of unauthorised absence through a more holistic family approach in the Early Help and Preventative Services. Schools are asked to use the new notification form to address these issues (at www.kelsi.org.uk/earlyhelp). If some cases have been withdrawn from court or a decision has been taken not to pursue a prosecution, or a fine, it should be discussed and agreed with the school and an alternative course of action put in place to improve attendance. Please contact Lindy.Whitfield@kent.gov.uk for more information. We will shortly issue updated guidance to schools on this issue.

I hope this is helpful clarification.

Patrick Leeson

Playsafe design a safe toy competition

Budding designers are invited to put their own creativity to the test and devise a new game or toy and win £1000 for their school

Playsafe is a safe toy drawing design competition for children in Secondary, Primary & Special Schools which encourages a greater awareness of safety features in the design of toys. It is a national Trading Standards Institute competition, run in conjunction with the British Toy & Hobby Association.

Young people are asked to design a toy ideal for a child aged three to seven. Entries can be from individual pupils, pairs or group entries. Designs must be drawn on one side of a page of A3 paper.

The designs must include relevant safety and conformity symbols such as the CE mark, the Lion Mark and 03 age restriction symbol if small parts are used.

The closing date for Kent entries is 1 May 2015, when entries will be scored to find our Top 20 design finalists. Final judging takes place at the TSI's Annual Conference next July.

At national level, there are prizes for each of the three group winners and their school. There is also a £1,000 cheque for the school of the outright winner of the competition.

Download an entry form

Contact details:

Sandra Cook, Vulnerable & Young Consumers Project Officer

Telephone: **03000 413354**

Email: **sandra.cook@kent.gov.uk**

Cash reward for creative young cooks

Getting creative in the kitchen could earn young cooks a share of £500

The annual Kent Cooks competition for children and families has added in a cash reward to the prize package provided to winners of the prestigious event.

Staged by the charity department at the KM Group to promote healthy lifestyles, categories include primary school pupils, secondary students and a family category for adult and child teams.

Finalists receive a goody bag from sponsors, a Masterchef cook book as well as a cheque. The winning primary school pupil will receive £50, £100 will be awarded to the family winner, the secondary student winner will receive £150 and the Kent Cooks overall champion will receive £200.

Entering is simple. Students cook one or two courses depending on their category, take a photograph of the completed dish and upload the photo to the www.kentcooks.co.uk website. The closing date for entries is midnight on November 4.

Finalists will be invited to cook their dishes at a Masterchef-style event for a panel of VIPs and food industry experts on Thursday, November 27.

Mini Babybel and Countrystyle Recycling are two new sponsors who have decided to support the 2014 event and will join DFDS Seaways, Brakes catering, Three R's Teacher Recruitment, Golding Homes, Orbit South, Kent Cookery School, Voo Servers, Southern Water, Carefree Comms and Licensing Consultancy Services.

Simon Dolby from Kent Cooks said: "We are delighted to have Mini Babybel and Countrystyle bring their expertise to support this important competition. I am sure the introduction of cash prizes to reward the winners will add extra interest."

Schools wishing to request free promotional leaflets to issue to students can do so at www.kentcooks.co.uk.

Contact details:

Nancy Clark, Event organiser, KM Charity Team
Telephone: **0844 264 0291**
Email: nclark@thekmgroup.co.uk

RAISEonline Updates

Update to RAISEonline unvalidated data release timetable

The timetable for the release of 2014 unvalidated data has been amended. The exact dates of publication will be confirmed in advance of the particular key stage release via RAISEonline latest news.

- Year 1 and Year 2 phonics data – by end of October 2014
- Key Stage 1 unvalidated data – by end of October 2014
- Key Stage 2 unvalidated data – by end of October 2014
- Key Stage 4 unvalidated data – beginning of December 2014

Please note that the Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 releases will not reflect the outcomes of requests for changes to the data that schools may submit via the schools performance tables checking exercise.

Information about upcoming changes to Closing the Gaps reports

To reflect the government's continued focus on disadvantaged pupils and the importance of closing gaps between their achievement and that of other pupils nationally, the Closing the Gaps section of RAISEonline will have the following changes:

1. Renaming of FSM/CLA pupils

From 2014, the terminology within RAISEonline will align with Department for Education publications to better reflect these pupils' needs. The pupil group known as FSM/CLA will be referred to as 'disadvantaged pupils'. Pupils who are not FSM or CLA will be described as 'other pupils'.

2. All Closing the Gaps reports will be three year trends

There will no longer be single-year tables in the Closing the Gaps reports. Three-year trends will be provided for expected progress, value added, average point score (APS) and threshold measures.

3. Greater detail in expected progress tables

From 2014, the percentage of pupils making expected progress from most prior attainment levels will be displayed within the Closing the Gaps section.

The percentage of pupils making more than expected progress will also be displayed. To reflect its importance, this table will be placed first in the Closing the Gaps section and it is the only one for which notable figures will be highlighted at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4.

4. New shading system

Shading will be used to indicate educationally important differences in progress at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. Shading will only be applied to the current year's gap between the progress of the school's disadvantaged group and the progress of other pupils nationally from the same starting point.

Further details on these changes will be provided with the release of the 2014 unvalidated data.

Please contact enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk if you have any queries.

Contact details:

Jan Bennett, Management Information Officer
Email: management.information@kent.gov.uk

Round up of the News in from Schools' Personnel Service (SPS)

With such a range of articles & information being published on www.the-sps.co.uk we didn't want you to miss anything

It's been a busy period for SPS and with such a wide range of articles and useful information being published on www.the-sps.co.uk we didn't want you to miss anything. So here is a roundup of what has been making the news in September:

- All schools with primary-aged children will soon be receiving their Primary School Sport Premium funding for the new academic year. **Do you know how to make the most out of yours?**
- SPS have been **nominated in the Payroll World Awards** for the third year running!
- The Schools Workforce Census 2014 submission deadline is approaching. Are you ready? **Find out more here.**
- Automatic in-year PAYE **penalties to be phased in by HM Revenue & Customs** to allow employers time to adapt to realtime reporting
- SPS have created a **free 2014/15 academic calendar filled with useful dates and HR tips.** Have you got yours?
- The Shared Parental Leave Regulations are currently before parliament and due to come into force on 1st December 2014. **Find out the key points** of this new regulation.
- Places on the Essential Training for School Leaders & Managers courses for Terms 1 and 2 **are still available.**
- SPS is planning further Breakfast Briefings this autumn. **Find out here** how you can ensure you can get the latest updates.
- HR Revenue & Customs have updated their EPS and FPS guidance. **See what has changed**
- SPS have been improving their Eforms after receiving schools' feedback. **Discover what's new**

Contact details:

Email: sales@thesps.co.uk

KCC Community Warden Consultation

KCC is currently carrying out a public consultation relating to the future structure and delivery of the warden service

No decisions have been taken and we want to hear what you think of this proposal. Please let us know by visiting www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardenconsultation and completing the online consultation questionnaire.

Alternatively, complete the consultation questionnaire on page 8 and return to: FREEPOST RTKS-UABE-USGJ, Community Warden Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, ME141XX

Contact details:

Jim Parris, Community Safety Manager

Telephone: **03000 413428**

Email: james.parris@kent.gov.uk

Free books arriving soon for pupils in reception classes!

Booktime returns this autumn, providing free book packs for children to share and enjoy with their family and friends.

Booktime is the free books programme for receptionaged children in England and Wales.

Booktime packs will be delivered direct to your school between Oct Dec 2014. The quantity ordered for you is based on your school's planned admission number. To make the most of gifting Booktime packs and the featured free book "Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy" by Lynley Dodd, you will soon be able to access a range of activity sheets, teacher guidance, and the interactive storybook via the Booktime website:

<http://www.booktime.org.uk>

Why not bring the children to visit your local library to celebrate Booktime? It's a great chance to reinforce the reading habit and encourage children and their families to borrow more books for free:

www.kent.gov.uk/libs

Contact details:

Karen Sillifant, Service Development Librarian (Children 0-11)

Telephone: **01843 256211**

Emai: **karen.sillifant@kent.gov.uk**

SLA website

The website for booking school improvement support is now live!

If you would like to request support for your school you can now book online at **<http://schoolimprovementsla.kent.gov.uk>** using either credits or on a pay as you go basis.

Please log in using your CPD online password and use the 'contact us' button if you are looking for bespoke support.

You can see how many credits are remaining in your account in 'My Basket'.

Any school wishing to join the SLA can do so through EduKent or buy emailing **schoolimprovementsla@kent.gov.uk**

Contact details: Jayne Bartholomew
Telephone: **01622 694955**
Email: **jayne.bartholomew@kent.gov.uk**

Changes to Teachers' Pension Scheme 2015 - update

Teacher's Pensions have created a series of 8 factsheets about the changes

The second poster campaign is now available for download. Please circulate.

Download a poster

Download an e-shot

Teachers' Pensions have created a series of 8 factsheets, with more to follow, about the changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS). The first two will help you understand the changes to the Scheme and the importance of knowing the difference between member types. There are also more specific factsheets outlining some of the areas that are changing, including: Salary link and overtime; Ill Health arrangements; Pensioner members, Retirement options, Bereavement and flexibilities.

The factsheets are simple to download and **can be accessed from the TP website**.

Please take time to review these and share them with your colleagues and those affected by the changes.

Teachers' Pensions have produced a number of resources for members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

Teachers' Pensions have produced a range of information and tools for members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme to help them reach their retirement goals.

There are also posters that can be downloaded for you to help inform your staff of the changes.

More information:

Find out more by visiting the TP Website

Contact details:

Email: tpu@kent.gov.uk

World War I Workshop for Key Stages 1 and 2 Kent & Medway Teachers

Led by Tim Hall and Phil Bracegirdle (South East Grid for Learning Associates), this practical “very hands-on” workshop is an excellent opportunity for teachers to plan challenging and creative activities linked to the popular key questions listed below:

- What happened to the soldiers listed on your local war memorial? • How did the war impact on the lives of people living in Kent & Medway?
- What was the role of women in WW1?
- Heroes and Heroines – Who were Edith Cavell and Walter Tull?
- What was the role of Commonwealth Soldiers in World War I?
- What do local and national newspapers tell us about World War I?

Event details:

Date: 4 Nov 2014

Start time: 13:30:00

Finish time: 16:30:00

Venue: Aspen SMILE Training Resource Centre, Whitfield Aspen School, Mayfield Road, Dover, Kent CT16 3LJ

Cost: £80 per delegate

Download a brochure here

How to book:

Planning to attend? Please complete and return **the attached booking form** by Friday 24th October 2014 to **bracegirdle@segfl.org.uk**

For more information about this course please contact: Phil Bracegirdle – South East Grid for Learning Associates

Email: **pbracegirdle@segfl.org.uk** or Tel: 07801709409

Consumer education resource from KCC Trading Standards (TS)

Young Consumers competition, covering subjects such as money & finance, consumer affairs, safety & the environment, food & health and Europe & travel

This educational and fun event helps students to develop their personal life skills, it also gives them a practical understanding of their consumer rights.

During September - January teams of 4 students aged between 14-17 take part in the multiple-choice Elimination Round, either in a paper quiz format or by entering online. (The questions can be supplied whether entering the competition or not). The 6 highest scoring teams will take part in the Kent Final in March 2015.

Following the sponsors buffet lunch there will be 2 heats and a final to find the Kent Champions. This team will represent Kent at the South East Regional event. The winning team will then participate in the grand National Final which will take place over 2 days on 24 & 25 June 2015 and will be held at the House of Lords. All entrants will receive a certificate and students participating in the 3 events will also receive prizes.

[Download an entry form here](#)

Contact Details:

Sandra Cook
Vulnerable & Young Consumers Project Officer, Customer Information Team, Trading Standards
Telephone: **03000 413354**
Email: **sandra.cook@kent.gov.uk**

Language Learning with Ipad

Joe Dale is the national leader in ICT and MFL. He is coming to Kent in November at the invitation of the Association for Languages Learning, Kent branch.

Find more details at <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/> Kent branch.

Date: 15 Nov 2014

Start time: 09:00:00

Finish time: 13:00:00

Venue: Ethelbert Road Primary School, Faversham ME138SQ

Cost: £30 Association for Language Learning individual members or member primary schools and £40 for individual non members

How to book

For more details and to book please visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/multimedia-language-learning-with-ipads-tickets-12210559111?aff=eac2>

Guidance for schools on the use of reduced timetables

KCC has published updated '**Guidance on the use of Reduced Timetables**', which includes the requirement on schools to maintain a central record of pupils not in receipt of a full time education and the need to inform the local authority of any part-time education arrangement, regardless of the type of school.

There is no statutory basis for pupils to be on a reduced timetable; however, in exceptional circumstances only, schools may need to implement a reduced timetable to support a pupil who cannot attend school full-time for a short, agreed period.

For the purposes of the guidance, a reduced timetable means by agreement with the pupil, parent or carer and school and where necessary the local authority, that the number of hours spent in education is reduced for a time-limited period of no more than **eight** weeks.

Schools should take account of and act upon the guidance in order to improve standards of educational attainment, safeguard the well-being of all children and young people and reduce the likelihood to the school of charges being made in respect of a failure to educate.

A reduced timetable should only occur in exceptional circumstances, where every other avenue to ensure a pupil receives their full time education has been exhausted.

The school should:

Establish a Pastoral Support or Personal Education Plan for all pupils with a reduced timetable, which takes account of the minimum standards and recommended good practice described in the guidance.

Immediately notify the Local Authority by completing the online form at the following link. To save the form as a favourite please select the address within the address bar, click on Favourites on the left hand side of the screen and click Add To Favourites, you can now choose a name to save this as and click Add. The information contained within your completed form will automatically be submitted to Inclusion Officers within Districts in order to support the school and young person.

Download the Reduced Time Tables On Line Form

Record the pupil's attendance using the appropriate registration code in order that the school and KCC can monitor when the pupil began and ended their reduced timetable (contained within the guidance).

Initiate robust arrangements for monitoring and regular review of the plan by a named member of staff.

Maintain a central school record of all pupils on reduced timetables and create a defined user group within the school attendance system for pupils receiving a part-time education.

Required action

It is essential that schools have submitted information about any pupil with a reduced timetable by 7 October 2014 and thereafter as soon as they occur.

*The full guidance on the use of reduced timetables is available via the Kent Education Learning and Skills (KELSI) website. Key word search 'reduced timetable'.

Click here for Reduced Time Tables Guidance

Contact details:

Louise Simpson
Inclusion and Attendance Manager
Telephone: **01622 696687**
Email: **louise.simpson@kent.gov.uk**

Global Learning Programme Conference: Free to all schools

An opportunity to learn more about Global Learning Initiatives and develop collaborative partnerships with other schools and external agencies.

Download a conference programme [here](#)

Date: 22 Oct 2014

Start time: 13:00

Finish time: 18:00

Venue: Sevenoaks School

Cost: Free of Charge

How to book:

Contact office@weald.kent.sch.uk or call **01732 463307**

Autumn 2014 School Census Guidance

Read the latest guidance and information for the 2014 School Census on 2nd October **here**

Contact details:

Jan Bennett
Management Information Officer
Email: **management.information@kent.gov.uk**