



Scottish Network for Able Pupils

SNAP
Glasgow University
St Andrew's Building
11 Eldon Street
Glasgow
G3 6NH
snap@educ.gla.ac.uk
www.ablepupils.com

SNAP

SUMMER 2009

Sizzling Summer Snippets from SNAP!

Dear Colleagues

We trust that you have had a successful year and that you are now looking forward to a restful summer break.

This term sees the end of a busy time for SNAP. Our annual conference was on Wednesday 3 June. According to evaluation forms this was one of our best! Don't worry if you missed the keynote presentations, they are on our website and can be downloaded to listen to at your convenience (www.ablepupils.com). We also hosted our third Associate Tutor day when we explored the relationship between dyslexia, music and highly able pupils, we were able to video conference with teachers in Shetland. We hosted a visit from a teaching colleague in Australia – she has returned to Australia with lots of ideas for good practice.

What's Been Happening Round the Authorities?

We thought you would like to hear of the interesting things that have been happening in our Associate Tutor authorities – perhaps your school even participated in one of the Science Fairs.

- As part of the International Year of Astronomy a series of Science Fairs were held in conjunction with SNAP and Dr Martin Hendry from the Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow. Primary pupils explored and investigated a series of challenges connected to The Moon Hoax or Extra Terrestrial Life. They met together and presented their evidence to the experts. If you would like to know more about these events or to find out if your authority is hosting one, please contact SNAP.
- Staff from East Ayrshire authority have produced a pack for spelling for high ability pupils. SNAP are in discussion with staff to see how we can roll out this work to others.
- West Dunbartonshire authority have two schools who have been developing a lot of work on ACE and are finding that it allows opportunities for challenging more able pupils as a natural course of teaching and learning in a mixed ability setting.
- North Ayrshire authority has heavily invested in training teachers in the Critical Skills Programme. This in essence is a classroom model encompassing a great many elements with pupils working in groups to solve problems and make connections in their learning. Through it staff have designed 'challenges' for their class which allow opportunities for all but particularly for more able pupils. One school in North Ayrshire has also encouraged talented artists by welcoming an artist to do Japanese 'Manga/anime' workshops with the P7s as part of their Japanese topic.



- A school in East Dunbartonshire started a GO club having attended the event hosted by SNAP in March. GO is great for all pupils including highly able pupils.
- In Edinburgh, Craigmount High school have developed challenges for highly able pupils in S1 and S2 and Drummond High School have an S2 highly able pupil group.
- Uddingston Grammar School, South Lanarkshire have been doing some fascinating work with S3-6 using Moodle, a virtual learning environment.
- Scalloway School in Shetland set up a murderous maths wall in the primary corridor with problem solving challenges. Successful solutions were read out in assembly and suggestions for the next challenge were invited. Some pupils made up maths games and were invited to other classrooms to try them out, it was very successful!

If you would like to know more about any of these projects please contact SNAP in the first instance (snap@educ.gla.ac.uk or 0141 330 3071)

Looking Forward

When you return from your break in the Autumn you will once again be thinking and planning how to offer challenging learning experiences for all. Often accessing high quality resources can be difficult and time consuming. SNAP are here to help.

SNAP have planned a series of CPD days here in the Faculty of Education in Glasgow, however as always, we would be happy to talk with individual schools, clusters and authorities to see if we can offer bespoke training for your specific needs. Already the diary is filling up with in-service events in South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire, Leeds, London, Argyll and Bute, North Lanarkshire and the West Midlands. Please see the attached document for information on upcoming CPD opportunities.

SNAP Membership

For session 2009-2010 we have a "flat fee" of £10 membership. This allows you access to

- Moodle VLE for members. Download interesting articles, information, resources
- Reduced rates for any SNAP CPD events for teachers, pupils and parents
- An online forum where you can discuss the education of more able pupils with colleagues and experts
- Reduced rates for our national conference
- Free advice and guidance
- Our lending library where you can borrow our wide range of books to "try before you buy". All we ask in return is a short review for our website.

Renewing your membership is easy – complete the attached form and return it to SNAP – the more members we have the more we can do to support you as you work with highly able young people.

Have a great summer!

The SNAP Team

PS - Guidelines for Able Pupils will be available on our website from September 2009