Godalming Confederation of Schools

Staff & Governors' Newsletter April 2011

Dear Colleagues,

By the time you read this newsletter, your school will know how much it received in the last budget settlement and hopefully things are not as bad as was previously thought. You may still be wondering about how some of the Coalition Government's new policies are going to affect you and your school but I'm sure that you will be looking forward much more to that two week break and all your plans - and even possibly to "The Wedding"!
This has been a strange term for us at the Confederation. We too were wondering about the future but at last I can bring you up to date with what has been decided.

Like others, we in Godalming have received a much reduced budget in the confederation for 2011-12 and so we have to cut our cloth accordingly. School Heads have met and agreed that they wish to readjust the Confederation next year, taking account of the reduced budget and building in future sustainability to focus on three main areas:

- Home School Link Workers because of the undisputed value that they bring to schools, pupils and families
- retention of the central Confederation website and its Manager (Heather Butterworth) to continue giving information to parents and carers, governors, staff and pupils including continued production of the school holiday activity sheet
- keeping the 10 cross-school working groups (Transition, SENCOs, HSLWs & Children's Centre colleagues, Admin Officers & Bursars, Literacy Coordinators, Numeracy Coordinators, G&T Coordinators, CPD, Evaluation and the Governors' group all on a self-run basis or by named people in schools. In addition, to try to enhance our Speech & Language therapy provision - a Surrey wide and national problem, but worth looking into again.

This means that my post will end on 30 June and Sarah Child's on 8 April. You will be pleased however to hear that Sarah is moving on to Milford School at the beginning of next term. I haven't yet decided what I am going to do. I would really like thank Sarah and Heather for all their hard work and commitment over the past few years and also our two bursars – Karin Goodfellow at Milford School and Callie Morgan at Busbridge Junior. Without them all and you, we would not have been able to achieve as much as we have.
Best wishes for a very happy Easter

Sue Dasey and the Confederation Team

www.godalmingconfederation.org.uk

Headteacher News

This term we have welcomed:
- Peter Flew – Head of St Edmunds Catholic Primary School
- Jill Pearce-Hayden – Acting Headteacher at Loseley Fields Primary School & Children's Centre
- Adam Samson - Acting Headteacher at Busbridge Junior in Carolyn Holmes' two term absence
- Jo Kinsey - Interim Headteacher at Farncombe Infants during Andrea Simonsson's maternity leave
- Victoria Abbott - Interim Headteacher at Moss Lane

News Bytes

The newly built Wharf Nursery School opens on 3rd May after the May bank holiday. After that an expanding range of children's centre activities as well as the nursery school will be offered.

The Centre at Green Oak will be open through the holidays and will continue, also with an expanding range of activities.

UPCOMING DATES FOR OUR CONFEDERATION GROUP MEETINGS - 2011

- South West Quadrant Confederation Managers meeting – 3 May – Ash Library – 10.00-12.00pm
- The Year of Communication (encouraging every school to become "communication friendly") - KS1 and 2 Speech & Language group (Godalming SLCN) - with Mandy Hill (LLS) - 9 May at Milford School, 1.15pm for a 1.30 start.
- Confederation Steering Group meeting – 17 May, Broadwater School, 9-11am
- Maths Coordinators – 18 May – 3.45pm- Busbridge Junior
- Literacy Coordinators – 8 June – 4pm – Milford School
- G&T Coordinators – 8 June – 4pm – Loseley Fields
- Confederation SENCOs meeting – 8 or 9 June – date, time and venue tbc
- Professional Learning Network – 14 June – 9.30-12.30pm – Ramada Hotel, East Horsley
- Bursars and Admin Officers meeting – 16 June – Broadwater School at 9.30am.
- Confederation Heads meeting – 21 June – 9.30-12.30 at Venue TBC
- Confederation Chairs/Confederation Managers meeting – 22 June – Leatherhead Golf Club – 9.30-12.30pm
- Confederation Link Governors - TBC
- Children's Centre Advisory Boards and other joint partnership meetings – as arranged

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In this bulletin, we can show you how the **18 February INSET** day went. This year we had more workshops than ever and we were particularly pleased to have a new Gifted & Talented group and also to invite the lunchtime supervisors to join us. Two Headteacher colleagues, Tim Burgess and Serena Roberts will be organising next year's INSET Day which will be on 10 February 2012. They would like to hear from you if you have any thoughts about the day/morning. I will of course be forwarding them your evaluation sheets and can take comments whilst I am still here.

A selection of Inset Day Workshop photos

Extended Services Disadvantage Subsidy

All schools have now received their third and final cheque. A reminder – the money must be spent by 31 August 2011 and schools must have a full record of this expenditure. It is for children and young people who are living in challenging circumstances measured by eligibility for free school meals or by your Headteacher's recommendation. Its original purpose was to fund out of school opportunities such as trips, clubs and other experiences which they would be unlikely to be able to afford in the normal course of events. There have been some heart-warming stories of how this little bit of money is making a difference and the HSLWs have had a big role in making sure that the money is being put to the children's best advantage.

Confederation Steering Group

Our Steering Group is as follows:

Anthony White, HT Godalming Junior (Chair)
Ann Tann, HT St James Primary (Deputy)
Andrew Smith, HT Rodborough
Chris Lee, HT Broadwater
Hilary Loder, Exec HT Green Oak
Kay Leggett, HT Milford Infant School
Jilly Storey, HT Witley Infant School