



# Godalming Confederation of Schools



## Staff & Governors Newsletter December 2010

For all Staff and Governors working in Confederation schools or settings

### Dear Colleagues

Can it really be Christmas again - where did this term go?! A very warm welcome to our Christmas newsletter and a brief update on what has been happening across the Confederation this term.

Home School Link Workers (HSLWs) continue to make a difference in every Godalming Confederation school and now that all three Children's Centres (CCs) are in full operation we can see the added value that the CC Outreach Workers, together with the HSLWs, make to our children and their families. Pupils are undoubtedly benefiting from the wider benefits that this joined up outreach brings, together with the day to day work with children and families that helps keep children focused and ready to learn, enjoying learning and keeping healthy and safe.

As we hoped, the Extended Services Disadvantage Subsidy ("Go for It") is being spent on the children who need it most and helping to fund a range of after-school and holiday activities from swimming lessons to residential trips. The important thing for us is to be able to see the impact that these new experiences have on pupils' self esteem and learning, demonstrated perhaps by increased attendance figures leading to a rise in standards. This is a one-off payment however and we don't yet know how the new Pupil Premium will impact on our more vulnerable pupils, so we are anxiously awaiting more details from the Government.

"**Achieving More Together**" is our strapline and everything we do aims to get the added value that working together as a close group of schools can bring us. This is particularly important during current straitened economic times. Our funded future beyond 31 March is uncertain at the time that this newsletter goes to press but we expect that most of our good examples of working together will continue in one form or another and that we will have a good basis on which to build. Confederations are likely to carry on in Surrey but not in the same format as currently. They are likely to be Borough wide (Waverley in our case) and to have a role in commissioning services that go beyond education.

In the meantime, we wish you a very happy Christmas and Happy New Year

### Sue and the Confederation Team

Sue Dasey, Director, Godalming Confederation of Schools

[www.godalmingconfederation.org.uk](http://www.godalmingconfederation.org.uk)

### Headteacher News

**Carolyn Holmes**, Headteacher at Busbridge Junior, is taking two terms sabbatical leave after Christmas. Current Deputy **Adam Samson** will be Acting Headteacher in Carolyn's absence.

We say farewell to **Geraldine Wood**, Headteacher at Loseley Fields Primary School and welcome to **Jill Pearce-Hayden**, the new Acting Headteacher.

Farewell also to **Ann Ramiz**, Headteacher at St Edmunds Primary School & welcome to new Headteacher **Peter Flew**, who joins us from Shottermill Junior School.

### Confederation Steering Group

Our new *Confederation Chair*, taking over from Carolyn Holmes, is **Anthony White**, Headteacher at Godalming Junior.

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 Moss Lane & Green Oak  
**Kay Leggett**, HT Milford Infant School  
**Jilly Storey**, HT Witley Infant School

### Home School Link Worker (HSLW) Update

HSLWs are currently attending two organised one-to-one and group supervision sessions per term. This is to help them discuss and review casework, ensure consistency of approach and help them with some of their more traumatic cases. Well done to three of our colleagues, two HSLWs and a CC Family Support Worker, who attended training organised by the Area Development Officer and qualified as supervisors themselves this term.

### UPCOMING DATES FOR OUR CONFEDERATION GROUP MEETINGS - 2011

Thur 20 Jan - Steering Group Meeting – venue and time TBC  
Tues 25 Jan - SENCO Speech & Language Meeting, 1.15 – 2.45pm at Milford Infant School  
Thur 3 Feb - Heads Meeting, 9.30-12.30 at Broadwater  
Weds 9 Feb - Admin Officers & Bursars Meeting, 9.30 – 11.30am at Broadwater School  
Weds 2 Mar - Literacy Coordinators Meeting, 4.00pm at Milford Infant School  
Thur 3 Mar - Link Governors Meeting, 6.00 – 8.00pm at Broadwater School  
Thur 17 Mar - Confederation Chairs & Managers Meeting – 9.30-12.30 Leatherhead Golf Club



## Continuing to Work Together: CPD, Training & Development

• Admin Officers and Bursars continue to work together, sharing information, sharing training where possible and in achieving best value for money, most recently in purchasing stationery, printer cartridges & office furniture. Our SENCOs, HSLWs, Literacy Coordinators, Numeracy Coordinators and Governors also meet in their cross-confederation groups to share good practice, train together and to continue planning together.

• All schools now offer each other places on generic training courses such as Paediatric First Aid, Safeguarding & Fire Safety training.

• On 25 January, Confederation KS1 and KS2 SENCOs will start working with Mandy Hill (Specialist Teacher, Learning & Language Support) to discuss SLCN (Speech, Language and Communication Needs) issues, share good practice, look at resources and find out how to identify pupils with SLCN.

**Remember - CONFEDERATION INSET DAY ON FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY** - A number of schools will be hosting individual sessions in the morning, similar to last year. The aim is for teachers and TAs to discuss and share good practice and look around a school that isn't yours! The morning may include the following workshops:

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|---|---|
| ■ Numeracy workshop led by Tony Nunn        | ■ Dance/PE workshop led by Adam Samson                |
| ■ Science workshop led by Ann Tann          | ■ Literacy workshop by Kay Leggett                    |
| ■ Art workshop by Serena Roberts            | ■ Behaviour Management workshop by Anthony White      |
| ■ Lunchtime supervisors' workshop run by 4S | ■ Fronter workshop led by Jilly Storey                |
| ■ Geography & History workshop (leader tbc) | ■ Positive Physical Interaction workshop (leader tbc) |
| ■ Mfl workshop led by Gill Badham           | ■ Spirituality workshop led by Tim Burgess            |
| ■ Geography & History workshop (leader tbc) | ■ Positive Physical Interaction workshop (leader tbc) |
| ■ TA provision (topic to be confirmed)      |   |

### Do you know what our Confederation Link Governors do?

The group meets termly and has a strategic and monitoring role as well as keeping up to date with what the Confederation is doing. For example they were insistent in ensuring that HSLWs receive proper supervision after they'd had a presentation from a HSLW.

Two Link Governors visited a Children's Centre to understand better their provisioning role.

### ESDS: the 'Go for It' Subsidy

This year, 2010-11, with the benefit of the 'Go for It' subsidy, over 320 of our children and young people are able to do things like learn to swim and play organised football in the school holidays, join other Holiday clubs or Sports Activities Camps, visit the theatre for the first time and join residential trips that they would not normally be able to afford. The aim is to help pupils do better at school by increasing their self esteem, confidence and independence, increase their aspirations, help them take personal responsibility for themselves, increase social and life skills, find inspiration or develop a talent. The subsidy is for this one year only and is part of the Government's Extended Services Offer. We are starting to evaluate these children and young peoples' subsequent progress in school to see how these activities are making a difference.

### Meeting the Extended Services Core Offer: Update

- **Childcare and/or A Safe Place To Be:** *Two of the three CCs and some schools offer childcare facilities on their premises; other childcare facilities are available locally (there's a list on the Confederation website). The two secondary schools offer a wide range of after school sport and other activities. Take a look at all their websites.*
- **A Varied Menu of Activities:** *All schools have widened the range of clubs and activities available before, within and after school. In several schools pupils have set up and now run their own clubs. Music, sports, arts & crafts, dance, drama, language and volunteering are the main examples of activities taking place.*
- **Parenting Support** *is provided mainly by the HSLWs and CC Outreach Workers in a huge range of examples and circumstances. HSLWs see pupils, parents and carers at school, make individual home visits, run groups and courses and work with the County's other services and with the voluntary sector as needed. The CC Outreach workers work similarly with families of the under-5s, backed up by more in-depth provision at their centres. The Confederation website acts as a signpost to a wealth of services, activities and opportunities.*
- **Swift & Easy Access/Referral** *to a wide range of specialist services has been helped by the HSLWs, who have taken on a new role in some areas. They work closely with the PCT, CAMHS, Social Services, behaviour support services, speech & language services and others to help provide what some children and young people (desperately) need. The CC Outreach Workers work similarly with families of the under 5s, again backed up by a wealth of provision at their Centre.*
- **Wider Community Access** *is being provided by schools and CCs where they can for opportunities such as using computers with associated ICT training and support, using grounds and facilities, particularly for sport and recreation and opening up other adult education opportunities such as maths and literacy. Gardening & horticultural opportunities are also very popular!*

