

GBA News - October 2018



NI Affairs Committee Inquiry into Education Funding

The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee's inquiry into education funding has started hearing from witnesses.

The Education Authority were first to provide evidence to the NI Affairs Committee on Wednesday 10th October. The questions from the committee

members in attendance addressed a number of issues such as Area Planning, engagement with political leaders and capital funding. The GBA has provided written evidence to the Inquiry which is expected to last a number of months.

C2K Lot 8 Project Board

Work is well underway by C2K to ensure that the scope and nature of future services will meet the needs of schools and stakeholders.

C2K would like to hear from schools about the use of technology in the classroom. Earlier this week a final questionnaire was issued to schools and this opportunity could be used to ensure that technology in the classroom reflect school needs. We would encourage member schools to respond to this survey.

If you have any particular issues regarding the C2K Project Board please contact the representatives below.

Lot 8 Project Board

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British Council International School Awards

The British Council held its annual International Schools Award ceremony on the 10th October 2018. The Royal Belfast Academical Institution, St Mary's Grammar School Magherafelt and Belfast Royal Academy were amongst the

nine schools receiving awards.

Derek Baker was the keynote speaker at the event and he encouraged schools to avail of funding through the Erasmus Programme. According to the British Council, over €28 million in funding has been provided to Northern Ireland's education, training and youth work organisations since 2014, of this €3.8 million has been provided to schools.

For further information on Erasmus please visit
<http://nireland.britishcouncil.org/erasmus>

Photo: Award winners courtesy of the British Council
Photo credit: Pacemaker

GBA Executive

The last GBA Executive meeting was held in Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School on Wednesday 18th September 2018, with the following items discussed on the agenda. The meeting focused on Area Planning with all GBA

Area Planning representative attending. Members also discussed school finances at length.

The Executive will next meet on Wednesday 24th October. If you would like any items to be added to the agenda for discussion at the meeting, please contact the GBA office (e) nuala@gbani.org

Shared Education Conference

The Shared Education Conference held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Wednesday, 10th October, attracted a large gathering of nursery, primary and secondary teachers, principals, sectoral representatives, including GBA, and DE and EA officials.

Permanent Secretary of State for Education, Derek Baker, pointed out that although funding for the original Shared Education Signature Project was due to expire in June 2019, it was most pleasing to note that since inception 600 schools and over 60,000 pupils were now involved, and that the number was still growing. The Key Note speaker, Professor Paul Connolly of Queen's University, co-author of the Report of the Ministerial Advisory Group published in 2013, reminded delegates of the progress achieved over the past five years, including the legal endorsement and implementation of the majority of the Report's recommendations within today's educational landscape.

The workshops consisted of presentations by four groups of schools highlighting diverse aspects of shared education partnerships in practice, as follows:

- Hart Memorial/Presentation PS Partnership (Portadown) Pupil Voice
- St Cecelia's/Lisneal/St Mary's College Partnership (Derry/Londonderry) Teaching and Learning
- St Paul's, Bessbrook/Newtownhamilton HS/Newry HS/St Joseph's HS Partnership (South Armagh) Effective Leadership
- Edenderry/Holy Cross NS Partnership (Shankhill/Ardoyne) Community Connections

The conference concluded with a short address by Mark Baker, EA Acting Director of Education. Mr Baker commended all those who were, and still

remain, involved in the concept, planning and implementation of shared education programmes across so many schools of all types.

Advertising a Teaching/Non-Teaching Vacancy

Did you know that the GBA has posted approximately 140 teaching and non-teaching vacancies in voluntary grammar schools?

If you would like to post an advertisement please contact nuala@gbani.org with details of the vacancy. This service is free of charge for all member schools. Please allow one working day for the vacancy to be updated.

Upcoming Events

[Skills Northern Ireland](#) – Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th November 2018

Website and Twitter

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