

GBA News - 29th November 2023



GBA Annual General Meeting 2024 - Save the Date

The GBA's Annual General Meeting will take place during the afternoon of **Wednesday 13th March 2024** at [Seamus Heaney Homeplace](#), Magherafelt. We have decided to host outside of Belfast in 2024 to increase accessibility for all 50 of our member schools and decrease the travel time as much as possible.

An invitation to the AGM will be issued to schools in due course, please look out for this in your inbox. We are in the process of compiling the agenda for the afternoon and will share this with you as soon as possible. If there are any particular agenda items that you would like to see included on the day, please [contact us](#).

DE publishes EQIA on final budget allocations for 2023-24

The Department of Education recently conducted a budget Equality Impact Assessment Consultation (EQIA) and has now published their [final report](#), taking into consideration all the responses, and issues raised to inform further in-year allocations if more funding becomes available.

Significant decisions already taken by the Department's Permanent Secretary include reductions in the EA's Aggregated Schools Budget (ASB) and Block Grant and the cessation of the Engage, Healthy Happy Minds and School Holiday Food Grant schemes.

While this is the Final EQIA report on the 2023-24 Resource Budget, the Department will continue to welcome any comments you may have in terms of the EQIA and the recommendations with regard to measures to mitigate adverse impact or alternative policies. Contact details are provided within the report.

A copy of the GBA's response to the EQIA consultation is available [here](#).

Live Consultations

[Integrated Education Act Action Plan: 31st August 2023 - 30th November 2023](#)

The Integrated Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 became law on the 26th October 2022, placing a duty on the Department of Education (DE) to prepare, publish and maintain a strategy for integrated education, including an Action Plan to deliver on the strategy.

The GBA has submitted a response to the consultation outlining key matters in relation to the proposed the action plan, including:

- Measurement of demand for school places should be in the context of all education sectors.
- Parity of access to services and Teacher Professional Learning for all schools.
- Effective use of public funding.

- Area Planning and the sustainability of the school estate as a whole.
- Definition of integrated education and acknowledgment of levels of integration in schools across all sectors.

A full copy of the GBA response is available [here](#).

The GBA is also represented on DE's Integrated Education Steering and Working Groups. If you would like to provide your views on the implementation of the act through these forums, please [contact us](#).

Area Planning - Operational Plan 2 and Specialist Provision Classes

Operational Plan 2: 2024-26 - Planning

The Area Planning Local Groups reconvened in September to analyse future need and develop workstreams for Operational Plan 2: 2024-26 (click [here](#) for more information on Operational Plans). The last meeting before the Christmas break will be a Joint Locality meeting on Thursday 7th December to bring together the representatives from all sectors to finalise the workstreams of Operational Plan 2.

If you are considering a significant change to your school that may require a Development Proposal, such as a change in size or character, please [contact us](#) to have this included as part of the discussions at the December joint locality workshop. As part of the Area Planning process, it is essential that these conversations take place during the planning year, in advance of the publication of Operational Plan 2.

Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools - Current and Future Pressures

Work is also ongoing to identify current and future pressures for school places for pupils with Special Educational Needs. The number of pupils requiring a place in a specialist classroom within a mainstream school is rising and is set to continue to rise in the coming years, with a particular pressure

identified for post-primary, as large numbers of children with additional needs make their way through the primary phase.

If your school is interested in this type of provision, or would like more information, please [contact us](#). You can also access further information using the link below.

Background

[Specialist provision in a mainstream school](#) provides a modified learning environment with an enhanced Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) suited to a pupil's learning profile. Pupils, where appropriate, also benefit from experiencing a level of inclusion, commensurate with their level of need, within mainstream classes.

Young Film and Animation Students Celebrated by Oscar-winning filmmakers at CCEA's Moving Image Arts Showcase 2023

Northern Ireland's most talented young filmmakers were recognised at CCEA's annual Moving Image Arts Showcase on 22 and 23 November which also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Moving Image Arts subject.

Hosted at Brunswick Moviebowl, Derry/Londonderry, and Cineworld, Belfast; over 600 students, teachers, and industry experts attended the awards to celebrate the success of NI's Moving Image Arts GCSE, AS and A level students.

Each shortlisted film was selected by a panel of experts, including representatives from Northern Ireland Screen, Into Film, ScreenWorks, Foyle Film Festival, BFI Film Academy, the Northern Ireland Creative Learning Centres, Cinemagic and CCEA Senior Teams.

Winning films:

GCSE Best Film - 'Invasion' by Teng Xuan Tan from Nexus International

School, Malaysia

GCSE Best Animated Film – ‘Mute’ by Hugo Fearon from Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School

AS Best Film – ‘Coming Home’ by Jonah Simon from Ashfield Boys High School

AS Best Animated Film – ‘Thief!’ by Eva White from Assumption Grammar School

A2 Best Film – ‘Rumination’ by Amy Warnock from Sullivan Upper School

A2 Best Animated Film – (joint winners):

‘Frog Flight’ by Caireen Ferguson from Assumption Grammar School

‘Daydreaming’ by Alice Quinn from St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel (taught at Kilkeel High School)

*Story from CCEA website - click [here](#) for further detail

Shared Education

The Shared Education Cross-Organisation Comms group will reconvene this week to look at ways of establishing a coordinated approach, to celebrate and showcase the benefits of Shared Education through a range of communication mediums.

If you would like to share any examples of good practice or experiences from your school, please [contact us](#).

Advertising of Teaching & Non-Teaching Vacancies on the GBA Website

The GBA provides a free advertising service for our member schools. Job vacancies are posted on our website and Twitter page. The Education Authority website also links to the GBA jobs section.

If you would like us to host a vacancy for your school, **please [contact us](#)**,

using our [job template](#) and allow at least **TWO WORKING DAYS** for posts to be uploaded.

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