

# SUNDERLAND 14-19 NEWSLETTER

April 2009

## Sunderland Celebrates Third Diploma Gateway Success



### Sunderland 14-19 Partnership has done it again!

Sunderland has been successful in its latest Gateway 3 bid to deliver the new Diploma qualification. It is one of only six consortia and local authorities across the country to be approved to deliver all fourteen lines.

The Diplomas in Public Services, Sport and Active Leisure, Travel and Tourism and Retail Business will offer even more choice to young people at the age of 14 and 16.

Brian Walton, Associate Headteacher for Sunderland, said, "This is great news for the young people of Sunderland, and I would like to thank all partners and employers who contributed to the development of the Gateway bids. It has been a great team effort."



Lynda Brown, Head of Standards

The Diploma Development Network Groups for each subject will be preparing the courses so that they are ready for September 2010.

Lynda Brown, Head of Standards, Children's Services said, "This is great news for young people in Sunderland. The Diploma offers a new way of teaching and new opportunities for learning in exciting ways that link the classroom with the real working world. The strong collaboration within the Partnership means that Sunderland is at the forefront of educational developments."

## Quality Assurance Awards

Farrington Community Sports College and Springboard Sunderland have gained the Gold QA Award and BL Training and Milltech have gained the Silver QA Award.

### Coming soon ... QA Quality Mark

Learning providers who hold the Silver or Gold Quality Assurance Award will soon receive the newly designed quality mark for display on letterheads.

## Sunderland Futures Diploma Open Day

Year 9 students intending to study a Diploma, and their Parents, attended the Sunderland Futures Diploma Open Day at Harraton and Pallion Centres, Saturday 25 April. The day involved seminars, meeting Diploma staff and a having a tour of the facilities.

Philip Barnes, Head of Sunderland Futures would like to thank all the staff who contributed to the success of the event.

## Parents & Pupils Aim High

More than 260 Sunderland parents/carers attended an Aimhigher event at the Stadium of Light to find out more about Higher Education opportunities.

Information was provided about the benefits of a university education, costs involved and the support available through grants, sponsorships and bursaries.

Feedback from the event was excellent, indicating that it was enjoyable, informative, well presented and fun. The event was supported by the Universities of Sunderland, Northumbria, Newcastle and Teesside.

### IT and Creative and Media Diploma Open Evenings

IT: 5:45 pm C&M 6:45 pm

*For Year 9 students who have chosen to study a Diploma*

**Monday 11 May 2009**

**Southmoor Community School CLC**

Contact: Mark Lloyd, Tel: 553 2490

and

**Tuesday 12 May 2009**

**St Robert of Newminster RC School CLC**

Contact: Andy Williams Tel: 219 3490

### Any news?

Contact Janet Murray, Sunderland 14-19 Partnership Team, Sunderland Futures Pallion Centre, Waverley Terrace, Sunderland, SR4 6TA  
Tel: 514 6386 / janet.murray@pallioncentre.org

## Health & Vocational Progression Day

Building on last year's success, a conference for pupils in Sunderland was arranged at Usworth VI Form College in Washington.

Pupils as well as students from the college were invited to take part in a one-day conference aimed at promoting careers and higher education within the health and social care sector, as well as giving advice and information relating to personal health and well-being.

Representatives from local Universities including Northumbria, Teesside and Sunderland as well as staff from Aimhigher, NHS organisations, Armed Force careers, Connexions, Public Health and Biomedical Sciences were represented.

More than 350 pupils and students attended the event with everyone feeling that it had been a very useful in providing options in relation to future careers and personal interests. Maggie Stewart, Sunderland's Aimhigher Manager, said, "This has been an excellent opportunity to inform our young people in the City of the vast opportunities and choices available in relation to different careers. I would like to thank all who contributed and took part in making this event such a success."



## Education and Skills Act 2008

The new Education and Skills Act aims to ensure that the first young people to participate in learning compulsorily beyond 16 receive good quality IAG and other support to enable them to make the most of the opportunities available to them. It places a duty on schools to provide careers information and advice in an impartial manner.

The DCSF is planning to publish an IAG strategy document which will help to explain the new duty, describe the characteristics of a good IAG school and outline the 'IAG journey' from Year 7 through to Year 13. View the requirements at [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/ukpga\\_20080025\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/ukpga_20080025_en_1)

## Online Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching System

The new online Apprenticeship vacancy matching system is now available at [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk).

It is a user-friendly site where learners can:

Search and apply for local, regional or national Apprenticeship vacancies

Access an interactive My Apprenticeship Space to save information and receive updates and alerts

Track and monitor progress of their applications in real time.

For employers and providers, the site provides:

- free advertising for their vacancies
- a quality assured Apprenticeship recruitment process
- national profile of Apprenticeship opportunities
- candidate application details which can be exported to enable sifting and integration with existing HR systems.

## Higher Education accepting Diplomas

Of the UK institutions listed by UCAS as offering HE courses, the vast majority have provided a generic statement reflecting their position on accepting the Advanced Diploma as a route onto their undergraduate courses. This includes all of the research-intensive Russell Group and 1994 Group universities, and all Million+ Group universities.

All UCAS member institutions are currently submitting course-level admissions information to UCAS for 2010 admissions. This information will include the acceptability for each Advanced Diploma Line of Learning, and guidance for what Additional and Specialist Learning might be required within each Diploma, for application to HE.

For example, Oxford and Cambridge have both confirmed already that they will accept the Diploma in Engineering for entry to undergraduate courses, and have issued guidance for what Additional and Specialist Learning they would expect a Diploma holder to offer.

Source: Supporting Careers Education and IAG newsletter March 2009