



## Full platinum service!

School caterers are savouring success after scooping awards for providing delicious dinners.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Chesterfield won the platinum award for excellence in Derbyshire County Council's ninth Primary Catering Service Quality Assurance Awards.

Pupils, teachers and staff from the authority's catering service management team nominated caterers for awards. Judges based assessments on quality of food, food presentation, service, customer care, hygiene, health and safety and kitchen management skills.

There were 38 gold award winners, 75 silver award winners, 85 bronze award winners and further 69 certificates of achievement awarded.

Gold award winners that achieved 100% in the quality assessment were then judged to find an overall platinum award winner.



SERVING UP SUCCESS: (back from left) Lesley Doohan, Gail Collins, Angela Green and Margaret Tyacke (front from left) Andrea Ferry, Bernadette Kirkham, and Ann MacMillan-Wood.

## White Paper lays down challenges

The White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' is scheduled to become a new education act in the autumn.

It sets out many challenges to stimulate thinking on how better services can be delivered to children so they can all succeed in their education.

The paper outlines a central role for local authorities as strategic champions for children and vulnerable families.

It also offers greater freedom for priorities to be decided based on local need and strategies for improvement.

The Derbyshire Schools Protocol was developed following consultation with schools to continue to support collaborative and interdependent ways of working within a strong partnership for all.

Under the White Paper, schools will take increasing responsibility for their own improvement, with ongoing support from the authority.

The paper also sets out the relaxation of central targets, regulations and

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# Schools set for £19.9m boost

A £19.919 million package of measures to improve the quality of Derbyshire schools has been approved by Derbyshire County Council.

The programme for 2011/2012 aims to modernise and improve the condition of school buildings and includes:

- £8.377 million for priority condition-related issues such as re-wiring, re-roofing or heating
- £2.080 million to replace buildings which have come to the end of their use
- £350,000 to extend the Key Stage 2 building at Darley Dale Primary School as part of a single site scheme
- £1.43 million for basic need schemes
- £2.2 million as part of a funding package to replace Church Gresley Infant and Nursery School.

Plans are still being made for the use of the remaining £5.482 million, which

will go to the authority's Cabinet for approval at a later date.

Councillor Mike Longden, Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "This funding will boost schools across Derbyshire.

"While the funding we have doesn't allow us to carry out all the schemes we would like it will still enable us to make a massive difference to the learning environment for thousands of pupils.

"We have given priority to those buildings that are in the worst condition or where improvements are needed for health and safety reasons."

To view the full list of schemes visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)



# Attending to absence

Attendance in Derbyshire is above the national average according to national figures.

The Department for Education released figures showing primary school total absence for the county for 2009/2010 is 4.97% compared to the national average of 5.21%.

Secondary school total absence is 6.72% compared to the national figure of 6.88%.

County attendance is better than similar neighbouring counties, which have an average of 5.03% total absence for primary and 6.84% total absence for secondary.

Persistent absenteeism in secondary schools is also down, from 4.7% in 2008/9 to 4.3% in 2009/10, which is below the national average of 4.4%.

This figure has consistently dropped over the past five years from 6.8% in 2005/2006.

A number of initiatives are in place to reduce absence rates to tackle unauthorised absences. This includes working with schools to try to reduce the number of pupils being allowed to take holidays during term-time and issuing penalty notices where parents have taken their children away without the permission of the headteacher.

## Growth of specialist language college

Pupils and staff at a Derbyshire school are celebrating the official opening of a £335,000 extension.

Bennerley Fields Specialist Speech and Language College, Ilkeston, has been extended to offer three extra rooms for therapy work and community activities.

As part of the new development additional staff have been taken on to offer support to children with communication difficulties. These include a specialist teacher, two speech and language therapists, two higher level specialist teaching assistants, an occupational therapist and an administrator.

The college, in Stratford Street, will provide specialist support for youngsters with a range of disorders and delays in speech and language.

Staff there will provide students with continual support, training and development, as well as direct therapy.

The college achieved specialist status in 2009 and has 78 pupils aged two to 16 years.

## White Paper challenges

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programmes and the introduction of a new national curriculum and English Baccalaureate.

Multi-agency teams (see facing page) will help Derbyshire fulfil its mandate to champion children and help schools develop strong support systems.

For more information visit [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

## Pupils make a meal of dining room



**OPEN FOR BUSINESS:** Councillor Stuart Ellis, Derbyshire County Council Cabinet Support Member for Education opens the new facility at Meadows Community School, with pupils (left-right) Jessica Zdanowicz, Ellie Clark, Darcie Heeley, Ellie Scott and Rebecca South.

A dining room makeover at Meadows Community School has led to an increased number of pupils eating school meals.

Improved décor, signage, an extra service point and new flooring have been introduced at the Chesterfield school.

And the new service point, which is dedicated to cold food sales, has shortened queuing times and increased sales.

Other features include:

- A Grab and Go service to enable pupils to get served quickly
- Sales close to an outdoor eating area for summer use
- Increased use of fruit and vegetables from the school's thriving horticulture centre in meals

Councillor Mike Ellis, Derbyshire County Council Cabinet Support Member for Education, officially opened the new facilities.

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## PLUS

Training programme for autumn 2011

## Online school places: county beats target

Derbyshire is joint first in the country for attracting online school place applications.

The county is well ahead of the Government target of having 50% of parents apply online, having achieved 96% through the website and Call Derbyshire. The authority shares first place with Kent County Council.

The authority made offers of secondary school places to 8,073 Derbyshire children. Of those who applied by the closing date, 96% were offered their first choice school – 2% more than last year and the highest number yet. Overall 99% were offered a place at one of their three preferred schools.

Offers of reception and junior places were sent to parents of 10,435 Derbyshire children.

Of those who applied by the closing date for primary or infant school places 95% got their first choice and 99% got one of their top three preferences.

For junior school places 97% of parents were offered their first choice for their child and 99% one of their top three preferences.



PERFORMING WELL: Tonomi Kawai (left) performs with fellow students to celebrate the success of our ongoing cultural exchanges.

## Ten years of exchanges marked

A decade of international links were celebrated when Japanese students visited Derbyshire to stay with local pupils and their families.

Students involved in the cultural exchange were from Aldercar Community Language College, Kirk Hallam Community Technology College, The William Allitt School, John Flamsteed Community School and Ilkeston School.

Twenty-eight Japanese students visited Derbyshire County Council's County Hall headquarters in Matlock during a visit to the county to participate in a variety of workshops including; Derbyshire well dressing, Taiko drumming, sushi-making and singing.

Host families joined the students and teachers in a celebration ceremony to mark the ten years of successful exchanges.

Pupils from Derbyshire returned the visit by staying with families in Toyota City.

# Multi-agency teams at heart of support network

Multi-agency teams have been set up throughout Derbyshire to support children up to the age of 19, and their families.

The teams provide education support, information, assessments, social, and health services.

Teams have been designed to support the county's 41 school cluster communities to make sure there is a network of support easily available.

A consultation with headteachers, members of the Children's Trust Partnership, operational managers, and frontline staff helped decide how teams should be structured.

The variety of services offered include behaviour support, education welfare youth work, targeted interventions, family resource work, children centre services, and elements of social care.

Six locality managers are overseeing teams for their areas. They are:

- David Bond in Amber Valley - david.bond@derbyshire.gov.uk
- Brenda Towse in Bolsover and North East Derbyshire - brenda.towse@derbyshire.gov.uk
- Moira Bannister in Chesterfield - moira.bannister@derbyshire.gov.uk
- Rosie Kightley in Erewash - rosie.kightley@derbyshire.gov.uk
- Louis Hughes in High Peak and North Dales - louis.hughes@derbyshire.gov.uk
- Maureen Evans in South Derbyshire and South Dales - maureen.evans@derbyshire.gov.uk

Working with a safeguarding manager for their locality, the locality managers are responsible for managing multi-agency teams for their areas.

Each locality will have four to eight multi-agency teams, to serve their school cluster area and community.

To find out more contact your locality manager.

## CLERKS' COLUMN

### Items for the summer term's agenda

Helpline: 01629 535769

[www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

#### Key tasks:

- Review attendance of pupils, staff and governors
- Review careers advice
- Review governor visits
- Review of governing body's performance and procedures
- Review pupil exclusions for the year
- Review school improvement plan progress.

#### Statutory Tasks

- Review the pay of teachers and staff

#### Governor updates

Until the new school extranet is launched in June please email any governor updates to [governor.support@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:governor.support@derbyshire.gov.uk).



**SCREEN STARS:** the North East B-Safe group celebrate (from left) Ryan Smith, 15, Jodhi Plumtree, 14, Emmie Cross, 14, Councillor Mike Longden, Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Kameron Twell, 13, Laura Smedley, 15, and Sophie Hoyland, 12, and Dylan Howells, 15.

## Film-makers put alcohol in frame

Students tapped into their creative talents to make movies to help warn of the dangers of alcohol.

A B-Safe film premiere was hosted at County Hall – the first of its kind to be hosted by the authority – to showcase four short films made by young people from B-Safe projects across the county to highlight the perils of drinking too much.

Two of the films went on to be included in the Bang! film festival at Broadway Cinema, Nottingham.

The B-Safe project, a joint initiative of Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire police and other partners working with young people, began in February 2009 to challenge underage drinking.

# Independent forum here to help

This is a time of real challenge for governors and governing bodies.

There are financial pressures and changes to regulations which are affecting – or are going to affect – governors and their schools.

That's why I wanted to remind Derbyshire governors, through this column, that help is on offer from the Derbyshire School Governor's Association (DSGA).

The association offers an independent voice and forum for the exchange of ideas, experience, and good practice by governors and governing bodies.

We're affiliated to the National Governors' Association, and work for governors through a variety of means, including:

- regular liaison meetings with Derbyshire County Council – especially governor support services acting as a representative

## DSGA FOCUS

and consultative body to Derbyshire County Council, the National Governors' Association, the Government, and other relevant bodies, to voice and advance the interests of Derbyshire governors and governing bodies supporting, organising, and participating in events and conferences for governors

- offering independent advice based upon good practice and impartial information.

We're open to all serving governors in the county and there is no fee or subscription as we are grant funded by Derbyshire County Council to provide our support.

One of the most consistent findings of

OFSTED is that the success of a school depends upon an effective governing body and the quality of the working relationship between the headteacher and governing body.

Such a relationship is built on mutual respect for their different roles and responsibilities.

Governors are responsible for strategic planning and oversight of the conduct of the school, and the provision of high standards of teaching and learning.

The headteacher is the senior professional responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and is accountable to the governors for the strategic progress.

Further information and assistance is available at [www.dsga.org.uk](http://www.dsga.org.uk) or [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk).

**PAUL MASON**  
Chair DSGA

## Sign up for latest news as Governor switches to e-magazine format

Get the latest news and updates emailed to you by signing up for the new-look Derbyshire Governor e-magazine.

This is the last issue of the Derbyshire Governor in its current printed format.

From October the Derbyshire County Council magazine will be emailed direct to governors, teachers and staff who sign up to receive the new electronic version.

It will still feature news, guidance for governing bodies, photo stories and useful information.

But the new emailed format will keep governors up-to-date more quickly and efficiently and will also help the authority save on printing and distribution costs.

You should have received a slip to sign up for the new e-magazine with this edition of Governor, which you can fill in and return to County Hall in the internal post.

Or visit [www.derbyshire/governormagazine](http://www.derbyshire/governormagazine) and simply fill in your name, email address and name of your school to start receiving your email copy from October.

# Guide provides A-Z of services

A new easy-to-read guide has been launched to help schools and academies access Derbyshire County Council's traded services.

The 44-page brochure offers a clear overview of the services available and how these can be purchased as a 'package' or tailored to suit an individual school.

Prices of the various services have been kept to a minimum this year – and some have even frozen their charges – in view of the tough financial climate schools are working in.

A number of services provided to schools can also be offered to academies, on request.

Councillor Mike Longden, Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "Our aim is to provide a high quality, consistent and responsive service.

"We want to build on the strong partnerships we already have with schools and academies.

"We're all working to the same aim – to improve life for children and young people in Derbyshire."

The brochure includes an A-Z of services for schools, a summary of services available for academies and information about our quality assurance standards.

To view the brochure online visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tradedservices](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tradedservices)

## Future arrives at state-of-art schools



Pupils and staff are hard at work in the first two state-of-the-art schools to be delivered through Derbyshire's Building Schools for the Future scheme.

The Bolsover School and Springwell Community College were handed over after £34.8 million of building works.

The £17.6 million Bolsover project and £17.2 million Springwell scheme have seen both schools retain their original sports halls – which were less than 10 years old. Springwell also kept a performing arts block.

And work has begun on a planned £25.5 million building for Shirebrook Academy and Stubbin Wood School.

The 'co-located' building at Shirebrook Academy's site in Common Lane will provide specialist facilities for both schools, which will share the dining hall, teaching spaces and staff facilities.

Students and staff were consulted about the design and facilities of the building, which is expected to be completed by 2013.

**NEW BEGINNINGS:** The Bolsover School pupil Holly Wilson, 11, (left) and fellow student Francesca Marshall, 11.

# Governor training programme - autumn 2011

The best governing bodies are the ones who both support and challenge headteachers and senior staff in schools.

They also know if the school is not achieving as well as it should.

But to do this you, as a governor, need to keep up with the ever changing rules and regulations that affect schools.

That is where our governor support team comes in.

We run a range of training programmes that aim to remove the stress of keeping up with issues by telling you what you need to know in easy-to-understand sessions.

Our courses enable you to:

- get the skills you need
- learn about the latest regulations or legislation your school needs to implement
- speak to other governors about their experiences
- share good practice between schools.

Most of our courses are run in the evenings so they fit in around your working day and are all competitively priced.

## How to book

### Phone

- Standard training courses can be booked by ringing 01629 535788

### Online

- You can book online through the Derbyshire Net for Learning (schools' extranet) at [www.dnfl.org.uk](http://www.dnfl.org.uk)

### Email

Send us details of the courses you are interested in and your personal details to [governorsupport@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:governorsupport@derbyshire.gov.uk)

## NEW GOVERNORS INDUCTION TRAINING

Course Code: AU1101  
Date: 08/10/11  
Time: 9.30pm – 3.30pm  
Venue: High Peak Area  
Cost: £120

Course Code: AU1102  
Date: 15/10/11  
Time: 9.30pm – 3.30pm  
Venue: Brockley Primary School, Chesterfield  
Cost: £120

Course Code: AU1103  
Date: 05/11/11  
Time: 9.30pm – 3.30pm  
Venue: Amber Valley / Erewash Area  
Cost: £120

## NEW CHAIRS' AND VICE-CHAIRS' TRAINING

Course Code: AU1107  
Date: 19/10/11  
Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm  
Venue: The Old Post Centre, Swadlincote  
Cost: £55

## EXPERIENCED CHAIRS' AND VICE-CHAIRS

Course Code: AU1108  
Date: 09/11/11  
Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm  
Venue: The Old Post Centre, Swadlincote  
Cost: £55

## CLERK TO GOVERNORS TRAINING

Course Code: AU1105  
Date: 24/09/11  
Time: 10am – 2.30pm  
Venue: County Hall, Matlock  
Cost: £110

Course Code: AU1106  
Date: 04/10/11  
Time: 10am – 2.30pm  
Venue: Ripley Area  
Cost: £110

## GOVERNOR BRIEFINGS

Course Code: AUGC01  
Date: 05/10/11  
Time: 6pm – 8pm  
Venue: Parkside Community School, Chesterfield  
Cost: FREE

Course Code: AUGC02  
Date: 10/10/11  
Time: 6pm – 8pm  
Venue: County Hall, Matlock  
Cost: FREE

Course Code: AUGC03  
Date: 12/10/11  
Time: 6pm – 8pm  
Venue: The Pingle School, South Derbyshire  
Cost: FREE

Course Code: AUGC04  
Date: 17/10/11  
Time: 6pm – 8pm  
Venue: High Peak Area  
Cost: FREE

## SCHOOL FINANCE

Course Code: AU1111  
Date: 04/10/11  
Time: 6pm – 8pm  
Venue: County Hall, Matlock  
Cost: £55

Course Code: AU1112  
Date: 19/10/11  
Time: 6pm – 8pm  
Venue: High Peak Area  
Cost: £55

Course Code: AU1113  
Date: 03/11/11  
Time: 6pm – 8pm  
Venue: The Bolsover School  
Cost: £55

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Course Code: AU1118  
Date: 13/10/11  
Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm  
Venue: Derbyshire Dales  
Cost: £55

## Summer term - time for performance management training

Two dates have been set in July for Performance Management training for governors, one at County Hall on 5 July and one in south of County 12 July.

In order that your PM governors are well prepared for annual performance management review meetings in the Autumn Term, they are encouraged to contact Governor Support to reserve a place on this popular course.

The session will develop the skills and knowledge to support governors in conducting the performance review of the headteacher and will explore the links to other school improvement processes. The course will also highlight the strategic role of the Governing Body in relation to the effectiveness of the performance management policy.

# Background notes and developments

## TRADITIONAL INDUCTION TRAINING (for new governors)

Governing bodies are part of the school leadership. You are responsible and accountable for major decisions at your school.

The National Induction Training for new governors will give you a greater understanding of your:

- strategic role
- critical friend role
- accountability role.

## CHAIRS' AND VICE-CHAIRS' TRAINING

A two-hour course for new chairs and vice-chairs establishes all the skills which are relevant to new, inexperienced or prospective chairs or vice-chairs.

A separate two-hour course offers training relevant to experienced chairs and vice-chairs.

## GOVERNORS' EXCLUSION TRAINING (two-hour session)

These sessions ensure that governors are aware of revised exclusion guidance from September 2008.

The first session is made up of a presentation which summarises the Department for Children, Schools and Families guidance on exclusion.

The second session is made up of a presentation which deals with the procedures to be followed in the meeting itself and the part which governors should play in this.

## ANTI-BULLYING TRAINING

Derbyshire anti-bullying scheme is a unique quality assurance accreditation scheme available to all our county schools.

The scheme helps schools develop effective anti-bullying policies and practices. It offers guidance for best practice and achievement of awards, involving the whole school community.

A one-hour workshop informs governors about the scheme and outlines examples of best practice for anti-bullying work.

The workshop aims to:

- encourage governors to support schools with anti-bullying work
- increase activity within the ABC scheme
- support headteachers to register with the scheme if they haven't already.

The course is available for individual schools and as cluster training. To find out more call 01629 535788.

## CLERK TO GOVERNORS

### One-to-one support sessions

Our governor support team is offering a one-to-one support session specifically devised for new clerks or current clerks requiring updated knowledge of new procedures.

This two-hour session is a combination of formal training and open discussion, allowing clerks to raise any issues or queries specific to their governing body. The clerks' handbook is included in the cost of the session.

The course covers the:

- role of the governing body
- role of the clerk, chair and head
- membership and instrument of government
- meeting administration (e.g. agenda, minutes)
- increased delegation (committee)
- sources of further information and support.

The cost of the two hour session is £103. To book sessions please call 01629 535769.

## Customised training sessions

We can organise customised training for your school or school cluster group. This type of training is very popular, with more than 100 sessions being run last year.

We got very positive feedback from people who took part. They told us that sessions helped them to make a difference in their schools, which in turn creates the best conditions for every child to do well.

We are able to offer a wide range of training and development courses on a theme of your choice for individual school governing bodies and groups of governors within local school improvement cluster groups.

The training events last for two to three hours during an evening and are customised to meet your school's specific needs. All the sessions are delivered by a trainer with an in-depth understanding of the subject.

### Pricing structure and information for customised and cluster training courses:

- Single governing body session  
Up to two hours – up to 15 governors – minimum charge £252
- Cluster/group session  
Up to two hours – up to 15 governors – minimum charge £252  
£5 per additional governor up to a maximum of 25  
£10 per additional school

## Monitoring and evaluation

Increase your effectiveness and confidence in your role as critical friend so that:

- You know the areas where the school is doing well and the aspects it needs to improve on
- You balance support with challenge and feel more confident in asking questions and critically discussing

- information that you are given
- You provide support and encouragement when ways to bring about improvements are being explored.

Examples of customised training available

- Roles and responsibilities
- National induction overview
- Exclusions

- Performance management – the new regulations
- Safer recruitment self-evaluation/shaping the direction of the school
- Every Child Matters
- Anti-bullying briefing

Course length: two hours



## We must stick to joint strength

I'm proud of Derbyshire's good national reputation for the quality of support for our children and young people.

A major part of this success is the strong working relationship between Derbyshire County Council and schools.

We're currently operating in a rapidly-changing world of education – and this has brought into focus once again the importance of the role of governors.

Your expertise and judgement has never been more important as you assess the situation for your school on a number of issues.

The Schools White Paper: The Importance of Teaching, published late last year, set the scene for a more autonomous, self-improving and diverse school system.

A number of Derbyshire schools are at various points towards becoming academies, a journey that – if taken – will form a contract that lasts for the next seven years.

Whatever decision a school makes, it is clear that the strong collaboration between the county council and schools must be maintained. Working together provides a strong collective system to benefit all young people, their families and the wider communities.

The county council has worked closely with headteachers, governors and elected members to draw up the new Derbyshire Schools' Protocol, which it is hoped all schools will sign up to

I'd urge all governing bodies and academy trusts to enter the voluntary framework of the new Derbyshire Schools' Protocol.

The collaboration and interdependence it brings is key to us all achieving our common goal of giving every young person the best possible start in life.

# Support in place on exclusions

Support is on offer for primary schools that have seen an increase in the number of their permanent exclusions.

Derbyshire's figures for permanent exclusions in primary schools had fallen from 21 in 2008/9 to 16 in 2009/10.

But provisional figures to May 2010/11 show there have already been 25 permanent exclusions – an increase of 56% on last year.

Schools have a number of existing measures available to avoid having to take the final step of permanently excluding a pupil.

This includes initiatives such as parenting classes and programmes to help pupils work on anger management and developing emotional intelligence.

And the 'five whys' scheme offers advice on factors which may be contributing to problem behaviours, such as family break-up, domestic abuse, bereavement, bullying or child abuse.

The development of multi-agency teams (see p3 story) means resources will now be available within school communities to support and advise with issues such as these.

It is hoped the teams will help reduce the need to permanently exclude a child – although this step will still be necessary if a pupil seriously breaches school behaviour policy or poses a risk to the education or welfare of other pupils.

## Pupils present new face of Newhall

Facilities for staff and pupils at a Swadlincote school have been officially opened.

The £113,795 refurbishment work at Newhall Junior School has improved disabled access, upgraded toilet and cloakroom areas, and improved the entrance area and office accommodation.

Councillor Mike Longden, Derbyshire County Council Cabinet Member for Education, officially opened the new facilities.

Councillor Longden said: "It was great to meet staff and pupils and to officially open the new facilities at Newhall Junior School.

"We're working hard to provide the best possible accommodation for every pupil in the county."



FRONT OF HOUSE: Newhall Junior School pupils Katie Marsh, nine, and Ethan Craddock, seven, with parent governor Jill Moses, and Malc Gee, chairman of governors.



**CLEAR MESSAGE:** (back) Anne Foxley-Johnson, Springwell Community College's anti-bullying coordinator, and headteacher Steve Goddard, (front) pupils Savannah Spalding, 13, Chloe Turner, 12, Heather Challands, 12, and Jenny Haslam, 13.

## Anti-bullying campaigners stand firm

Pupils sent out a clear anti-bullying message during a week-long campaign.

National Anti-Bullying Week focussed on the importance of Taking Action Together.

It encouraged children and young people who witness bullying to report it and parents, carers and adults not to turn a blind eye.

Springwell Community College in Chesterfield was among the schools to participate in the event, which is

coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

Pupils took part in workshops which looked at different types of bullying and how to report them, how to avoid cyberbullying, and role play to help understand how bystanders can help beat bullying.

Hundreds of schools have taken part in Derbyshire County Council's Anti-Bullying Commitment since it was launched in 1996.

# Careers: county stays connected

Support for young people previously provided by Connexions Derbyshire Limited is now being offered through Derbyshire County Council.

The company ceased trading on March 31, after a reduction in Government grants, and the authority has been providing integrated services since.

Frontline services are continuing and some staff that worked for Connexions have been transferred to Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council.

The vast majority of offices used by the public in towns across the county have remained open.

A careers guidance team is working in each district to deliver services direct to schools and colleges, helping young people decide on future learning or career choices.

John Gibb, Derbyshire County Council's

assistant director for engagement and skills, said: "Like many other authorities in a similar position, the county council is working hard to ensure careers advice is delivered effectively and efficiently.

"We're targeting our support where it is needed most so we can give support and advice to the most vulnerable young people to help them into work or training."

Students receiving exam results in the coming months can get advice and support from careers advisers.

Contact numbers to call are:

- Chesterfield Connexions Centre – 01246 201581
- Buxton Connexions Centre – 01298 22322
- Ilkeston – 01159 302636
- Swadlincote – 01283 229709
- Alfreton – 01773 832 935

**BRUCE BUCKLEY**  
Strategic director for children and younger adults



## Positive report reflects hard work

Government watchdogs have inspected services for children in Derbyshire and rated them 'good'.

Ofsted checked how well children in the county are kept safe and the quality of services for looked after children and care leavers.

Inspectors interviewed children, parents and carers, staff from Derbyshire County Council and health services, community representatives and the chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. They also examined reviews, reports and performance data.

I'm pleased to report services were found to be good, with good capacity for further improvement. Children are safe and feel safe, services respond well to children in need and there are good opportunities for youngsters to make a positive contribution and have a voice.

There's also very good engagement of looked after children, young people and care leavers in education, employment and training.

I'm reassured we measured up to the tough standards of the inspectors.

But there's always more that can – and should – be done to make sure children are protected and have the best chances.

This positive report reflects the hard work and commitment of staff and partners.

We're now focussing that commitment and hard work on maintaining our successes and following inspectors' recommendations.

They advised we develop the quality of education achievement for looked after children, care planning and assessment in social work and mental health services for children.

By combining the strengths of everyone working with children and developing the expertise and resources we have we can work together to give young people the bright future they deserve.

# Tribute to bravery, talent and kindness

Exceptional young people from across the county had their achievements recognised at the Derbyshire Young Achiever Awards.

Seventy four young people, aged four to 17, received awards during the Derbyshire County Council-organised ceremony at Highfields School in Matlock.

And around 400 guests and nominators attended the event which has been running for 12 years to recognise young people's outstanding bravery, talent, kindness in helping others, and commitment to improving their school or community. A cross-section of the recipients is featured on the facing page.

Details of how to nominate young people for this year's awards will be in the next edition of Governor.



## Sports hall off the marks

**UNDERWAY:** Pupils Lydia Pilkington, 16, Jack Piggott, 15, and Alice Staniforth, 15, on the site where the school's new sports hall is to be built.

Work is underway on a £1.9 million project to build a new sports hall at a Langley Mill school.

The new facility at Aldercar Community Language College will have space for four badminton courts, a fitness room, changing facilities, and two classrooms.

Councillor Mike Longden, Derbyshire County Council Cabinet Member for Education, visited the school to perform a sod cutting ceremony which marked the beginning of on-site work.

Councillor Longden said: "This will be a great new facility to benefit current and future pupils at Aldercar Community Language College and the wider community.

"The new sports centre and classroom will provide excellent accommodation for lessons and the opportunity for a healthy and active lifestyle."

Construction is due to be completed in July so that the building is ready for use at the start of the 2011-12 academic year.

## Countdown to new age of information for schools

A new website for schools is set to go live this month.

The site, which will replace the Derbyshire Net for Learning (DNFL), will offer valuable updates for governors and school staff.

Work on the new website will continue following the launch and it will be developed to eventually provide a wide variety of helpful information for schools.

While work is taking place on setting up the new site schools will continue to receive non-sensitive information via headteacher@ email addresses.

Sensitive information will continue to be stored in the EMBC secure website portal – which schools should already have received an email about accessing via the headteacher@ address.

The authority's web team is currently using information and feedback from schools' staff and governors to help create the format and tools of the new site.

For more information email [CAYA\\_WEB@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:CAYA_WEB@derbyshire.gov.uk) or call 01629 539261.

**ISOBEL AND WILLIAM LEWIS**  
New Mills

Five-year-old Isobel was only three when she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Staff at New Mills Primary School have been astounded by her enthusiasm for life, cheery nature, bravery and resilience despite having to undergo treatment. Her brother William received his award for his unselfish support, compassion and understanding.

**AMELIA AND ANNABEL LOWE**  
Chesterfield

Sisters Annabel, 11, and Amelia, 10, received their awards for the way they have supported their dad, Neil, who is recovering from a brain tumour and has severe fits.

St Joseph's RC Junior School pupil Amelia and Annabel, a pupil at St Mary's RC School, offer amazing support when this happens. They know how to check his breathing and when to phone an ambulance. One of the girls will talk to their dad while the other strokes his head.

**EMMA ERSKINE**  
Matlock

Fifteen-year-old Emma received recognition for her all-round sporting prowess. The Highfield School pupil is the ISKA European Junior Girl Light Contact Kickboxing Champion, having taken up the sport just six years ago. Emma is also the Derbyshire County Schools' Intermediate Girls Cross Country Champion for the second year running.

# Dip in to learning treasure trove

Looking for something to liven up a lesson or give pupils an insight into days gone by?

Then look no further than Derbyshire County Council's school library service.

The authority has more than 60,000 artefacts and books for schools to borrow – and with many original items, we are happy for them to be handled.

Items for loan include:

**Boxes of artefacts** – linked to curriculum areas, topics covered include Tudors, Ancient Egypt, WW1 and 2, the 1950s, Festivals of Light, History of the Seaside and Toys. Many of the artefacts are original and most can be handled. Each box includes a guide on how to use the artefacts and ideas for lessons.

**Book Boxes** – complete with items to touch to bring the story to life.

**Sculptures** – including original works and one-off commissions.

**Stuffed birds and animals** – often used for art classes.

**Items from around the world** – including masks from Africa and textiles from India and China.

**Scientific boxes** – including materials, the weather and magnets.

**Bringing history to life sessions** – storytelling, role-play and handling artefacts with an expert dressed from the period, such as a Roman or Viking.

**INSET programme** - training for teachers and teaching assistants on handling objects and display work.

If you would like more details call school library service manager Denise Pritchard 01332 371921 or email [schoollibraryservice@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoollibraryservice@derbyshire.gov.uk) or visit our website [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)



**ON LOAN:** John Watkins, of Time Warrior Productions, dressed in traditional Viking costume. He works with our school library service to bring history lessons to life.

## Help site registers with teenagers

Almost 1,000 young people entered the authority's latest online competition to encourage them to get help when they need it.

The web-based OK? campaign – part of the b\_line scheme – is designed to help 11 to 19-year-olds look after themselves, their mates and their property and deal with issues like bullying, alcohol and drug abuse.

The county council recently carried out some research with Derbyshire Youth councillors to see what they thought of the campaign and plan to develop it further using their ideas.

For more information find 'ok derbyshire' on Facebook or visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/ok](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/ok)

## Anti-racism pupils show true colours

Young people and football stars sent out a clear anti-racism message at a campaign event.

Derbyshire County Council arranged for 60 children to attend the Show Racism the Red Card day at Derby County Football Club's Pride Park Stadium.

They met Rams players who took part in a question and answer session about racism in football and society.



**RED CARD:** Pupils from Aldercar Community Language College and Langley Mill Junior at Derby County FC's Pride Park.



**DESIGNS ON SUCCESS:** (front) Rowsley CE Primary School pupils Lennie Brown, Gracie Ward, Libby Brown, Max Verdicchio and Rory Barker. (back) Teacher Sarah Emmerson and Liz Bown, Derbyshire County Council project designer.

## Village role models. . .

Budding architects tested their skills when they created their own model village.

Pupils from Rowsley CE Primary School teamed up with Derbyshire County Council's design team to create their own model village – complete with houses, roads, play areas, a recycle centre, and bus stop.

Their completed work was exhibited at the Derbyshire Eco Centre.

## Carry on good work - by royal command

Derbyshire County Council's work to promote the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has received the royal seal of approval.

HRH Prince Edward visited the authority's Lea Green Centre and presented Councillor George Wharmby, Derbyshire County Council Chairman, with a licence for the authority to continue its Duke of Edinburgh's Award work for the next three years.



**ROYAL APPROVAL:** HRH Prince Edward presents Councillor George Wharmby, Derbyshire County Council Chairman, with Derbyshire's Duke of Edinburgh's Award licence.

## 'Most improved' schools praised

Derbyshire primary schools have been ranked among the country's most improved.

Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, has written to congratulate the top 100 mainstream schools, based on the increase in level 4+ English and mathematics.

Derbyshire schools receiving praise were Blackwell Community Primary and Nursery School, Brockley Primary School, Darley Churchtown CofE Primary School, Ironville and Codnor Park Primary School and William Rhodes Primary School.

## Guide to law for governors

An updated 'Guide to the Law for School Governors' should now be available.

The guide sets out statutory requirements relating to governing body responsibilities.

An update given in January this year was set to be refreshed on the Department for Education website in April.

Updates can be read or downloaded at [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

## Private fostering: let us know

If you know anyone who is looking after a youngster who isn't a close relative the county council wants to hear from you.

The authority needs to know about private fostering arrangements if it involves a child – under 16, or 18 if disabled – who is living with a friend, neighbour or other carer for more than 28 days.

To find out more visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/privatefostering) or Call Derbyshire 08456 058 058.

### NEXT EDITION

Governor will go online in October 2011. Find out more on p5 and fill in the provided slip to receive your email copy