

Playing for Success

Newsletter

RHA
Rex Hall Associates

March 2008 – Issue 2

Message from the DCSF

April has continued to be a busy month both for Playing for Success and for Double Club, and I'm sure everyone feels that the Bank Holiday weekend is well overdue with Easter holidays being a distant memory!

Jodie and I have been making every effort to be out and about to see what's happening by attending the Playing for Success centre manager briefing session at Wembley (with thanks to Wayne for loaning us the centre); attending the launch of the fantastic Playing for Success centre at Tooting and Mitcham FC and heading along to the Emirates Stadium for the launch of some superb new Arsenal Double Club materials to support literacy teaching. It's clear that Playing for Success is definitely more than the sum of its parts!

One thing that did come up at the Wembley briefing sessions was how you go about inviting a minister to launch your Playing for Success centre. In response, I've jotted down the recommended protocol to help you on this.

Always ask someone in a senior position to write directly to the Minister requesting their attendance at the launch.

Be as flexible as possible and give a range of dates in the future to improve the chance of the Minister being available.

Include some information on the unique features of your centre, details of any successes in raising standards and/or some innovative work that you've been doing to give the letter a more personal feel.

The current Ministers are:

The Rt Hon Ed Balls MP - Secretary of State

Jim Knight MP - Minister of State for Schools and Learners

The Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP - Minister for Children, Young People and Families

Kevin Brennan MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children Young People and Families (Kevin Brennan is the Minister who usually attends PFS launches)

Andrew Adonis - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learners

Aileen Clement and Jodie Semp

Playing for Success

Office for the Chief Advisor on School Standards

Centre News

If you have a conference invitation but have not so far registered can you join the 241 people who have done so. If you cannot attend or do not plan to take up a bedroom on the Thursday please contact Sam at Sam@brackenevents.co.uk. This will release places for attendees from our reserve list.

Rex

Wigan Warriors has introduced its PfS pupils to blogs to enable them to access PfS activities at home and school. The pupils will produce their own blogs which will include podcasts. The address is www.pfsround3.blogspot.com.

For details please contact Darren Fletcher the Champs centre manager. The centre has produced its annual report for 2007 – 2008.

Chris Andrews, the centre manager at Cheltenham Racecourse, has negotiated with the Cheltenham Racecourse to open a second learning centre at the course adjacent to the present PfS centre. Due to the demand in daytime provision for PRUs the present centre is now working at full capacity and the new centre will allow for more provision.

The Cornish Pirates has submitted its business plan for 2008 – 2009 and Arsenal has produced its business plan.

The Tooting and Mitcham centre was launched on 28 April. The launch was attended by senior officers and local councillors from the two authorities - LB Merton and LB Sutton.

Recently staff from Norfolk LA went down to Cornwall to visit local centres.

Preston North End centre has just completed a Press Packers day. It's proving to be a very popular and motivating prize for our KS3 groups and highly regarded by participating schools.

For further details contact Jane Icely

<http://www.pnefc.premiumtv.co.uk/page/Community/0,,10362~1274622,00.html>

Staff Changes

New centre managers

Wycombe Wanderers have appointed a new centre manager, Julie Wilson who will start in September but will be attending the first day of the national conference.

Gareth Young has been appointed as the Assistant Centre Manager at Beaumanor Study Support Centre, Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 8TX (01509 890119). For further details contact Heather Rawlings. Gareth is an experienced outdoor education teacher.

Andrew Heaton is the temporary centre manager at Wigan Athletic. His email is andrew.heaton@wiganmbc.gov.uk

Vacancies

Suffolk

An exciting new opportunity has arisen at the Community Trust following an agreement between the Ipswich Town Community Trust, the Suffolk Primary Care Trust and the Waveney Primary Care Trust to fund an 'Activ8 IT PLUS Coordinator' over the next two years.

The successful candidate will build on the excellent reputation that our own Andy Leeson established as part of the initial series of Activ8 IT healthy lifestyles road shows over the past 18 months.

Activ8 IT PLUS will be a more targeted programme which works with Key Stage 2 and 3 students within the normal school environment and aims to develop understanding of all factors which contribute towards living a healthy lifestyle including issues around physical sports/exercise, balanced diet/nutrition, preparing healthy packed lunches etc. Each student will undertake a six week programme which will be followed by half-termly visits thereafter over the course of a year.

A second element to the programme involves working with obese children from within Key Stage 3 and 4 and their families outside normal school hours on a programme combining regular physical activity with a greater understanding of the measures they can take to improve their own lifestyles and which seeks to ultimately improve the outlook for these students.

The successful candidate will need to have the skills to be able to both deliver the healthy lifestyles programme and also assess the project and produce detailed,

written reports into the key findings and achievements with the aim of supporting the management team in securing future funding beyond the initial two year period.

The salary range is between £18,000 and £22,000 depending upon experience and qualifications. Deadline for applications is 9 May with interviews due to be held the following week.

For further information please call Matt Try or Sacha Brakenbury on 01473 400744/588 or e-mail matthew.try@itfc.co.uk

Sheffield LA are advertising a new post of a PfS tutor full time on SUG 6 – 7 to act as cover for PfS staff and to deliver a high standard of teaching and learning in Playing for Success centres.

The aim of the post is to raise the achievement of young learners by increasing motivation, building self-esteem and helping them to become effective and independent learners. Details from Rob Walker at Sheffield LA.

LB Tower Hamlets

The centre manager post at the London Marathon centre will be advertised in the TES and Guardian in the week of the 21st April in the Primary section.

For details contact Claire Hatton, Children's Services, Joint Head, Extended Services, The PDC, English Street, London E3 4TA 020 7364 6344

Resource Update

Information about a book review project. At the Apple Teacher Institute 2008 we were introduced to an Irish project known as FIS Films In Schools (Fis is also Irish for vision.) The project aims to bring the medium of film into the classroom to make learning more exciting and relevant to everyday life. One of the ways they have done this is through filmed book reviews. Pupils read a book and then film their reviews, either by using a Mac's inbuilt camera or web cams, their reviews are then uploaded onto a secure site after the children have watched their piece back and asked themselves the question, "Does what I just said make sense?" Other pupils can then log onto the site, type in a name of a book and see if a review appears for them to watch. Every school/centre involved in the project has a login and password. I thought the project fitted perfectly with PfS and have signed up. It costs £100 for the first year and then £50 for each of the following years. Pupils in PfS centres would have access to reviews done by children all over the UK and they are even spreading the project over to America so there are some great geography links there. Ciaran McCormack who is involved in the project, is more than happy for Playing for Success centres to sign up as the more children that can be encouraged

to read, the better! It would also be great to get players involved. For more info contact Beth Mason on 01726 75220 or bethmason1@yahoo.co.uk

Reporting Process

I have signed the formal contract with the DCSF to run PfS for the next three years. We are currently logging all the centres who have sent in reports as previously requested - business plans and evaluation reports - which will be part of our reporting process to the DCSF. Can you please ensure that you have sent hard copies of reports to our office in the West Midlands. So far nearly 40 centres have completed the data files sent out by Sue Collins. I am aware holidays have been a factor in some not replying. This is a very important document for the creation of a database. Please complete this task as soon as possible.

Rex

I wish to thank the managers and staff from over 70 centres who attended the briefing days. I will be repeating the workshop at the national conference. I am sure you are getting feedback from colleagues.

Rex

New material on the www.playingforsuccessonline.org.uk website includes material on Advanced QiSS together with case studies of Advanced PfS practice and a newly revised centre handbook.

Rex

Calendar – 2009

9 May - South East Regional Meeting will take place at the Kent Spitfires Study Centre in Canterbury starting at 10am. (It is not 25 April as previously stated). Agendas will be sent out in due course. Please contact Martin Kelk martinkelk@ks-studycentre.co.uk.

22/23 May 2008 - The tenth Playing for Success National Conference themed - Moving Forward, Achieving Excellence takes place in Stratford upon Avon. Invitations have been circulated and the conference website is live. 55 workshops and speakers have been confirmed. Please register via the site.

June - There is an event at the DCSF with the formal launching of RHA Playing for Success and Double club new contracts.

After the national conference there will be a new CPD training programme and the dates for QiSS recognition meetings will be announced.

8/9 January 2009. The bi-ennial centre managers' conference will be held at Durham CCC. Details from Tina Dransfield or Jeanette Wood at Durham CCC.