

engage

April 2010

Issue Two

The Newsletter for Stockton-on-Tees 14-19 Partnership

stockton on tees
14-19 partnership

Welcome to engage

Welcome to the second edition of *engage*, the 14-19 Partnership's termly publication. There have been some major developments since our last edition and at the risk of missing some outstanding work we have included some headline features of the term so far:

- We have seen increasing interest in our diploma programme for 2010/11 with a number of schools guaranteeing diploma delivery and/or diploma students. This has been supported by a successful road show and a series of experiential days.
- We have had some excellent news regarding our Gateway bids to deliver additional diplomas in 2011; this guarantees the offer of 12 diplomas with a possibility of a 13th.
- Jonathan Spruce from Joint Strategies Unit gave two well-received talks to the Partnership and the Implementation Group on how a number of high-profile developments will impact on Stockton and the wider Tees Valley area.

- The Partnership's new 14-19 Strategy and Implementation Plan are now complete and combined within the 'Planning for Success' document; an Executive Summary is available.
- The Partnership continues to broaden its communications with a broad range of audiences – a delivery based on the 14-19 Reform Agenda has been well received by a number of groups and organisations.

Thank you to everyone across the borough who has worked hard on a range of 14-19 developments. They have given a great deal of their time to improve provision, delivery and outcomes for Stockton learners.

Martin Clinton,
Chair of the Stockton-on-Tees
14-19 Partnership



Another brick in the Stockton Wall

A unique website designed to inspire Stockton's young people about its potential for future living, learning and earning is taking a step forward.

The 14-19 Partnership is working hard to develop the 'Stockton Wall' an interactive website which will enhance the careers education, information, advice and guidance in our local area.

The 'Stockton Wall' will provide learners and their families with an insight into the borough's learning opportunities and future economic growth sectors. This will help them understand the essential skills needed to build our economy and develop a strong 'sense of place'. Most importantly, it will offer learners a realistic look into their future, to raise aspirations, retain talent and increase confidence in local communities.

The site, which is being created through u-explore, will profile Stockton's strengths while promoting its diversity and future prospects. Our intention is to highlight the substantial regeneration plans set to transform the borough.



u-explore



Stockton's first 14-19 diploma learners are 'IT' for employers

Learners on the Higher Diploma with Stockton Riverside College have certainly been making an impression on the region's employers.

As part of their learning experience at Teesside City Learning Centre the Diploma in IT students have applied their support and expertise to a range of activities and projects.

The students have contributed to a promotional day at MIMA in Middlesbrough and the DCSF 14-19 Diploma Road show – where they shared their experiences with potential new students.



The group has undertaken some substantial IT improvements for employers including the installation of a network system for the North Tees Hospital's radio team. They are also putting together a package of multimedia resources for the Brook Advisory Service to deliver training and information on health and well-being for young people.

Tony Beards, Personal Tutor and Mentor at Stockton Riverside College, praised the students' work and motivation: "Teaching the diploma has been an exciting time. It has been an excellent opportunity for the students to work with businesses and produce work that will be used by the organisations as well as producing coursework evidence. The students have a completely new approach to their studies."

Romin Khalili, a student working on the Brook multimedia package, added: "I think this is a really good course and I've enjoyed it. Every part has been an adventure and I'm hoping to do the advanced diploma next year."

Julie Sellers, Line Lead for IT, said: "It's been a real learning experience being the Stockton 14-19 Partnership pathfinder in diplomas and it's certainly paid off! Interest is already high for next year and we're delighted with how this area has grabbed the learners' attention. A taster day has been organised so students can experience subjects before deciding – due to the outstanding level of interest we're arranging another day."

Area Wide Prospectus steps up a gear

Work to develop Stockton's Area Wide Prospectus is quickly gathering pace. The 14-19 Partnership Team is working with providers across Stockton to offer training to complete their addition to the prospectus. Schools, colleges and providers across the borough are working to update the website to reflect the learning offer across the 14-19 phase.

The information on Post 16 educational provision, including potential 2010 courses, is now fully up-to-date while Work-based Learning is being updated through the 'Regional Database Team'.

The 'Super Users', including Stockton Riverside College, Bishopgarth School, Conyers School, Grangefield School, Northfield School and Connexions Stockton-on-Tees, have taken on a 'buddy' role to support other schools and colleges.

With the support of the 'Super Users', who are trained in using the Area Wide Prospectus, we have been able to accelerate progress and learners are now able to view 2010/11 courses - our work is to begin promoting the site to ensure impact on our young people, parents and practitioners. View the Area Wide Prospectus at www.campusstockton.org



New placement booking system hits town



From September there will be big changes to the way that Stockton students book their work experience placements.

Previously Year 10 and 11 students worked with a school co-ordinator to find a suitable placement. The co-ordinator then liaised with a central team to make the necessary arrangements. The

improved system will give students an individual log-on code to:

- access placement information
- choose what they would like to do
- make an application
- receive electronic updates on their application's progress

Students can log-on at school or at home allowing parents/carers to be more involved. Filters help the students choose the right placement for them. If they are unsure of what they want to do they can identify the type of working environment they enjoy – working outdoors or as part of a team – and the system searches the database to offer placements that match their chosen criteria.

The new system puts the ownership of identifying and arranging placements into the students' hands. It allows them to follow processes which they will need for future job applications – it even has a CV builder.



The new system will be operated in partnership with S-cool and the four local authorities of Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland.

Aiming higher to achieve

Stockton schools and colleges have been seizing the opportunity to make the most of the Aimhigher Associates scheme which was launched last November.

As part of the initiative Teesside University and Durham University students are employed as associates to work with small groups of learners – encouraging them to make the most of their talents.

The national scheme makes use of the associates' personal Higher Education experiences. Working on group and individual activities they will have the chance to think about their future ambitions and develop the skills and confidence needed to achieve.

Thornaby Community School, Blakeston School and All Saints School have welcomed associates. Stockton Sixth Form and Stockton Riverside College will soon launch the scheme.



Maryann Dorgan, Aimhigher Progression Mentor at Thornaby Community School, feels the scheme has been well received. She said: "From the start it has been a positive experience. We had several parents attend the launch which we were delighted with. It's always great to involve parents in what's going on in school."

Sarah McLeod, Aimhigher Associates Co-ordinator, added: 'We've been delighted with the response from all Tees Valley schools. It's going particularly well in Stockton and to have three schools and two colleges engaged with the scheme during its first year is excellent.'

Aimhigher...
Tees Valley



New Champion for Stockton students

In the last edition of **engage** we told you about our employer champions. Here we take a look at our flourishing partnership with leading North East marketing agency Adessi.

Melanie Kendall, Adessi's Regional Director, has taken the role of employer champion to support the delivery of the Creative and Media Diploma. She is currently working with Peter Hook, a teacher at Conyers School, who is spending some time at Adessi.

By expanding his understanding of the industry and allowing him to gather personal experience of how an agency works Melanie will help Peter in developing future lesson plans and schemes of work.

Melanie explained: "I'm pleased to be working as a Creative and Media Diploma employer champion as I'm helping to inspire others about working in the sector. The scheme is an excellent initiative as it gives young people the chance to learn what jobs in different areas really involve."

Peter added: "My visits to Adessi and working with the team to gain a better understanding of the practical side of the creative industry have already proved useful. As a teacher of the diploma it's important that I have a comprehensive picture of the industry both in theory and in practice so I can share this knowledge with my students."

To support employer engagement the 14-19 Partnership is hosting a special breakfast event aimed at Stockton's most enthusiastic and innovative employers. Short workshops will give employers the opportunity to learn more about diplomas, work experience and apprenticeships. Guest speakers will show how their business has benefited.



The breakfast event will take place on Tuesday 27 April 2010 from 8am to 9:30am in the Wynyard Rooms. For further details call 01642 528 733 or email c.robinson@stockton.gov.uk

An enterprising culture

An innovative project to enhance young people's experiences and perceptions of enterprise has seen two Stockton Borough Council departments working closely together.

Stockton's Regeneration and Economic Development and Children, Education and Social Care departments have joined forces to form the Enterprise Culture Project – to develop skills-based learning within the borough's schools and colleges.



The project will support learning institutions to embed enterprise and fund intensive activities which inspire entrepreneurial

activities in engaging and innovative areas. It will initially operate until July 2011 and has been funded through the Stockton Borough Council Communities Fund and the European Regional Development Fund.

The Enterprise Culture Project aims to involve all young people including those not in employment, education or training (NEET) and those young people facing barriers to engagement and challenging circumstances.

