

South West



Educational Improvement
Collaborative

Newsletter – June 2020



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Colleagues

Over recent weeks I have found the support of my colleague Directors and Heads of Education invaluable. The collaborative strategic leadership group have met on Zoom every Friday morning to share our thinking and jointly problem solve. There has been a fair bit of moaning too, but in a very supportive way. It has demonstrated for me the strength of collaboration at a local level. Coming out of this crisis I see a real opportunity for more effective collaboration at various levels across the south west. We are now at the very tricky stage of creating local education recovery plans to enable us to emerge from the current crisis. There are many questions and issues still to address but by working together hopefully we can share the workload and navigate our way through.

Our focus has rightly been on supporting our children, young people and families and on planning the return to learning in schools therefore the collaborative has not been at the forefront of people's minds. Moving forward, there will be opportunities for all of us to continue to benefit from the scale of the collaborative, sharing information and good practice across schools and local authorities that will benefit all of us. We intend to set up SWEIC groups to look at how we can work jointly during the recovery and renewal period, sharing good practice in blended learning, teaching, assessment as well as supporting vulnerable learners.

This newsletter includes a summary of responses to our recent SWEIC survey. It is evident that staff who have engaged with SWEIC activities have appreciated the opportunities to collaborate, share good practice, network and take part in professional learning. Many thanks to all who shared their views. Your responses will help to shape our plans for next session, looking at new ways of working and providing on-line opportunities to collaborate. The newsletter also provides a number of interesting and relevant resources from across the south west and nationally.

Many thanks for your continuing support of the collaborative.

Best Wishes

Douglas



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South West Educational Improvement Collaborative Regional Improvement Plan 2019-20

(Click plan to open link.)



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SWEIC Stakeholder Survey 2020

Summary

Thank you for your responses.

In which area has SWEIC Professional Learning impacted on your practice?
1. Collaboration; Sharing good practice; Networking
2. Professional Learning
3. Moderation
4. Maths/Bar Modelling
5. ICT/Digital
6. 'Families'/Rural Event

What type of professional learning opportunities would you like the SWEIC to offer in the future?		
1	Professional Enquiry	
2	Peer Mentoring	
3	Peer/stage/department/school visits	
4	Research supported by a university	
5	Twilight CLPL	
6	Other (please specify):	

Other:
(i) Networking; sharing good practice; visits to other schools; standardisation of practice
(ii) ICT Training; Online/distance learning
(iii) ASN training - Autism/EAL/Hearing impaired
(iv) Mentoring; job swaps; shadowing
(v) Health & Wellbeing; Recovery Planning; Trauma

What content would you like to be covered?	
Curricular planning (CfE refreshed narrative)	
Data Analysis	
Secondary subjects	
Pedagogy	
Other (please specify):	

Other:
(i) SEN; Complex ASN training
(ii) Covid-19 Recovery period training
(iii) Health & Wellbeing (staff & pupils)
(iv) Play Based Learning (incl. beyond Early Years)
(v) New and creative ways to enhance learning

In what ways can the SWEIC help to support innovation?
1. Networking; sharing good practice; visits to other schools; opps. for unpromoted posts; shared projects
2. Digital Learning: training, resources, funding
3. Curriculum Dev./Developing a wider learning community (businesses, parents, pupils); DYW
4. Funding
5. Research Projects

In what ways can the SWEIC develop collaborative approaches to school improvement?
1. Sharing good practice; shared projects; peer visits; mentoring; observations
2. School Improvement Planning – shared planning/consistent approach
3. Technology/Digital Learning Platforms
4. CLPL (shared/ in service day)
5. 'Families' & wider development of same
6. Networking/Events

Dumfries & Galloway STEM Conference – Microsoft Team joining code stn024m



Dumfries & Galloway's third annual STEM Conference focussing on all aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics launched on Friday 1st May.

The conference event has had to take on a very different format. Plans for our 2020 STEM Conference have been overtaken by the need for most children, young people and staff to stay at home in an effort to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus. We know that many of our staff have other pressing commitments – providing learning at home for their children & young people, supporting their own families and volunteering in their local hubs. Our conference format therefore has been adapted to provide staff with the opportunity to participate in career long professional learning at a time, and in a place which suits their needs. Technology is allowing us to share our conference materials in a different way, a new experience for many – but useful learning for us all.

Building on the successes of previous conferences, and the continuing work of the DG STEM Team we hope that the our conference keynote addresses, workshops & marketplace and Schools' Showcase will provide practitioners across Dumfries & Galloway and SWEIC with insight and continued learning in all aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.

All conference materials are available within GLOW. These materials will be available throughout Term 4 and into next session to support all practitioners as we work to meet the aspirations of both the STEM Education & Training Strategy for Scotland, and our own local authority STEM Strategies.

A Microsoft Team entitled Dumfries & Galloway STEM Conference 2020 has been created to host the online conference materials, which are easily accessible within a OneNote Staff Notebook. Practitioners can access the Team using the following code: stn024m. Guidance information on how to access and navigate the conference OneNote can be found [here](#).

The DG STEM Team and the DG Regional STEM Partnership Group would like to thank all those who have agreed to participate in our online conference, in particular those who have adapted and changed delivery models to suit our new ways of working. We hope you enjoy the materials we have on offer in our online STEM Conference and look forward to working with you again soon.

Remote Learning in South Ayrshire

Please click on the image below to see a compilation of what remote learning looks like in South Ayrshire schools.



North Ayrshire Council's Family Learning Team

Please click on the link below to access North Ayrshire Council's Family Learning Team's website. It is full of different ideas of how to support learning at home using apps, non-screen activities, web-links and many other resources.

<https://nacfamilylearning.weebly.com/>



SWEIC Leadership of Pedagogues Programme

Click [here](#) to find details of an exciting new professional learning opportunity for existing middle leaders in secondary schools. The aim of this programme is to develop the leadership capacity of curricular PTs to lead pedagogical improvements with their teams in departments/across school which lead to improved outcomes for learners. This is about the development and application of skills in context.

This is a ground-breaking programme which is the result of collaboration between existing middle leaders from across the SWEIC who have informed the content and we have an experienced DHT facilitation team to design and facilitate the programme.

The programme is designed for substantive curricular/raising attainment PTs. This programme would be a good support for PTs in a range of situations: those who are newly appointed to their role; those who are very experienced and are looking for the next challenge; those who may require fresh inspiration and motivation etc. We would ask that any applications are carefully considered by you/your SLT and that you are able to support these staff throughout the process. Only applications submitted by Head Teachers will be considered.

Please consider your availability to attend up to 5 face to face or online full day facilitated meetings over the next session.

Head Teachers are asked to email Amy O'Rourke on amyorourke@north-ayrshire.gov.uk with the names and designations of staff from your school who wish to apply by Friday 19th of June. Please note that this is an offer as part of the SWEIC Leadership workstream and it is not essential for all schools to participate. We do hope to offer a similar programme for Pastoral Leaders in the future.



**SWEIC Programme for
Leaders of Pedagogues**



Are you...

- an existing middle leader in a secondary school?
- interested in developing your leadership skills in your own context?
- passionate about building the capacity of your staff (The pedagogues)?
- determined to raise attainment for your young people?

Then, sign up for the groundbreaking SWEIC Programme for Leaders of Pedagogues – an exciting leadership development opportunity!



Closing the Gap Workstream

Many of SWEIC's primary school families were progressing with their collaborative plans before lockdown, arranging visits to each other's schools and meetings with staff.

Following lockdown, we have created Microsoft Teams for SWEIC primary school families to provide you with a platform to continue your collaborative work online.

We intend to organise a Families of schools collaborative event early next session for Head Teachers to share experiences of remote learning, learners returning to school, blended learning and any other areas that you wish to cover.

To join the Rural, Small Town or Urban Microsoft Team please use the code below

Rural Schools R1-R8	Small Town ST1 – ST4	Urban Schools U1 – U10
Code - 2mauxi	Code - icgmkv	Code - erna768

Within each Team, each family has its own channel. Some families have joined together to work on shared priorities. Please feel free to create additional channels to reflect these groupings.



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Assessment and Moderation Workstream

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, our moderation events in May had to be postponed. We are currently planning on-line professional learning opportunities and assessment and moderation activities for next session.

In the recent SWEIC survey, a number of practitioners requested that secondary subject networks be set up across the region. To facilitate this, we will be creating Microsoft Teams for secondary subjects to enable on-line networking across the region.

Education Scotland

Assessment in the broad general education – [guidance](#) has been published to support practitioners as they consider how they will approach assessment in the broad general education as part of their learning and teaching during the period of blended learning beginning in August 2020.



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Winning Scotland Foundation

Helping young people be their personal best

43 practitioners from across the South West have signed up for the SWEIC Mindset in Education Teams programme delivered by Winning Scotland Foundation. The programme was launched on Wednesday 3rd June by Rick Orr, providing a course overview, on-line activities and guest speaker, Jacqueline McBurnie from St Anthony's Primary School, Johnstone, describing her school's experience of the Mindset in Education programme last year.

5 practitioners from last years SWEIC cohort of Mindset Champions have recently achieved an award in Applied Growth Mindset from Glasgow Caledonian University.

Please find more information and case studies by following the link below:

<http://www.winningscotlandfoundation.org/the-latest/news/33-teachers-become-scotlands-first-mindset-graduates/>



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SWEIC Maths Group Update June 2020

The SWEIC Maths Group have met virtually throughout the lockdown period. Discussion has centred on supporting teachers in developing a blended approach to learning in numeracy and mathematics.

The group are currently planning to provide a series of online pre-recorded webinars which showcase good practice and how practitioners have developed innovative practice to engage learners and families during lockdown. These sessions will focus on how such approaches can support the development of blended learning going forward in session 2020-21. These sessions will be available to practitioners through Teams early in the new session with a proposed launch date of 11th September 2020. Each of the four SWEIC authorities are currently providing examples of ways in which numeracy and mathematics planning, learning, teaching and assessment has been developed during this period.

The Maths Group have continued to develop partnerships with Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers across the south-west throughout session 2019-20. Work is underway with the University of Glasgow to support the development of an Enhanced Practice module which will support students and practitioners to work across sectors within the Broad General Education (BGE) phase with a focus on literacy and numeracy.

The group has also established a partnership with the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) to develop approaches to Collaborative Action Research (CAR).



A Blended Learning Approach to Maths

Four primary schools in South Ayrshire (Annbank, Barassie, Dalmilling and Holmston) are proposing to take a 'flipped' approach to blended learning in order to develop pupils' conceptual understanding of maths, supporting consistent approaches both at home and in school. Pupils will be provided with a link to a weekly online skills-based lesson (hard copies provided where necessary) which will introduce new learning. This will prepare them for the class-based sessions which will aim to further develop, embed and assess their understanding of the skills and strategies being focussed on. 'How To...' videos and online parent workshops will provide further support where required. An overview of the approach and an example lesson can be found at the following links.

Blended Learning in Maths <https://youtu.be/9PvTQeUAY7M>

Example lesson (Part-Part-Whole: Whole unknown) https://youtu.be/EpQ9_i9hdXg

Early Years

- As we move forward and plan for recovery, there are several priorities which SWEIC will be focusing on to support this in terms of the Early Years sector.
- We look forward to continued engagement with Education Scotland. Themes highlighted for our work include work around Realising the Ambition, transitions for families, pedagogical leadership in EY, parental Engagement & family learning and the health and wellbeing of children, families and staff.
- Work around Assessment and Moderation in EY will continue as we look to deliver this in alternative ways.
- We are also planning to offer Froebel and Childhood Practice training to a SWEIC cohort in conjunction with Edinburgh University. The impact on the quality of provision as a result of this approach is well recognised and we look forward to offering this exciting opportunity across the collaborative.
- SWEIC continue to work alongside the Care Inspectorate who are keen to offer input and support to the sector at this challenging time.



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Lockdown Lowdown

Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP), YouthLink Scotland and Young Scot partnered to deliver [Lockdown- Lowdown: what young people in Scotland are thinking about Covid-19](#)

- **School, College, University closures:**

42% Extremely or Moderately concerned

Exams/Coursework:

49% concerned, with around **50%** stating that they were Moderately or Extremely concerned

- **Employment Situation** (of those who answered this question):

36% Moderately or Extremely concerned

- **Financial Situation** (of those who answered this question):

30% Moderately or Extremely concerned

- **Physical Wellbeing:**

25% Moderately or Extremely concerned

Physical Wellbeing of others:

41% Moderately or Extremely concerned

- **Mental wellbeing.**

39% Moderately or Extremely concerned

Mental Wellbeing of others:

46% Moderately or Extremely concerned

- **Impact on social relationships with family or friends:**

40% Moderately or Somewhat concerned

- **Ability to access their rights as a young person:**

58% some concerns

- **Their ability to look out for or care for others:**

30% Moderately or Somewhat concerned



The role of decision makers. Who they think should be providing information around coronavirus:

- **87%** stated Politicians
- **55%** selected Teachers
- **34%** selected Youth Workers
- **22%** selected Young People (least common)

Examples of actions that they would like to see decision makers take: 2,418 responses were categorised into 40 themes. Most common:-

- Ensuring information is clear, honest and from a reliable source.
- Improvements to current impact on education
- Make current restrictions stricter
- Clarification of existing measures

A summary of responses from each authority in the South West can be found below:

- [Dumfries & Galloway](#)
- [East Ayrshire](#)
- [North Ayrshire](#)
- [South Ayrshire](#)

- **The Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on their future:**
61% Moderately or Extremely concerned

Other issue: 872 responses categorised into 25 themes.

Most common:-

- Further educational, economic and social impacts
- The practicalities of being in lockdown or social distancing
- Access to information about coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Ability to access information during the coronavirus outbreak

The topics that respondents were most confident in accessing information about were:-

- Information, advice and updates around lockdown. Yes - **90%**
- Activities to do while inside. Yes - **82%**

Other topics they may like more information about : 550 responses categorised into 19 main themes. Most common:-

- Topics around education
- Updates around returning to normal or the future
- Information and support for specific groups

The topics that respondents were least confident in accessing information about:

- Support for mental health and wellbeing. No – **40%**
- Financial support that may be available to you . NO - **61%**

Ability to access online services:

- **99%** able to access online services via a device at home
- **96%** with access to reliable broadband/data at home

Closing the attainment gap workstream:

Finding Funding Step by Step

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) has created a handy step-by-step guide to applying for and winning funding.

A link to all their hints, tips and advice can be found [here](#).

Regular updates on all grants including additional funding streams available during the coronavirus outbreak can be found below.

Scottish Rural Network:

<https://srn.fundingscotland.com/Account/MemberLoginRegister?returnUrl=%2F>

South Ayrshire 4 Communities:

(Includes national and local funding opportunities and not restricted to South Ayrshire)

<https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/southayrshire/Search?bcr=MTIzNA>

Funding Scotland:

<https://fundingscotland.com/Account/MemberLoginRegister?ReturnUrl=%2F>

Foundation Scotland: <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/about-us/>



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Literacy and English



[Scotland Learns](#) provides a range of resources and activities to support learning at home. The materials are located on the National Improvement Hub. These will be built up over time, with new content being created and uploaded on a weekly basis.

[Literacy and English](#). Here you will find a range of activities to support your child's learning at home in literacy and English. You won't need lots of resources and the activities are designed to encourage your child's creativity and independence. There are some activities that your child can do on their own. You may want to do some of the activities as a family.

Two new newsletters - one for parents and one for practitioners, will highlight the resources being made available each week. You can subscribe [here](#).

Wakelets on Digilearn Scotland provides professional learning resources and links to relevant research; quick links to the most up-to-date Literacy and English documents and information; and a range of support materials and resources for learning, teaching and assessment in literacy and English across the curriculum.

Click [here](#) to access more information.

New Professional Learning Community

Education Scotland's National Literacy PLC, is a virtual learning environment for practitioners across all sectors. The purpose of this hub is to provide:

- professional learning resources and links to relevant research;
- quick links to the most up-to-date literacy and English documents and information;
- a range of support materials and resources for learning, teaching and assessment in literacy and English across the curriculum.

Click [here](#) to access more information.



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Numeracy and Mathematics



[Scotland Learns](#) provides a information and resources for [Numeracy and Mathematics](#).

Here you will find a range of activities to support your child's learning at home in numeracy and mathematics. You will not need lots of resources and the activities are designed to encourage your child's creativity and independence. There are some activities that your child can do on their own. You may want to do some of the activities as a family.

These are straightforward, open-ended learning activities which learners can do on their own or with their family. Each week a suite of numeracy and mathematics activities will be published.

Wakelets on Digilearn Scotland

The [Primary Numeracy and mathematics](#) and [Secondary Numeracy and mathematics](#) wakelets provide a collection of links to materials stored online that can be used to support numeracy and mathematics learning at home. They are intended to make it easy to access materials from one place.

New Professional Learning Community

The refreshed package by Numeracy has now been relaunched as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) and is available on Glow via the National Communities tile or by clicking [here](#).

The site provides:

- information and support for Numeracy and Mathematics
- professional learning resources and links to relevant research
- access to resources for learning, teaching and assessment in Numeracy and Mathematics



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Health and Wellbeing



[Scotland Learns](#) provides information and resources for [Health and wellbeing](#).

Looking after our health and wellbeing as best as we can is really important for us all in these uncertain times. Here you will find some health and wellbeing activities that your child can do on their own at home or you may want to do them together as a family.

Health and wellbeing webinars

Senior Phase PE	17/06 10:00 – 12:00	Click here
BGE PE	22/06 14:00 – 15:30	Click here
Senior Phase Home Economics	18/06 10:00 – 12:00	Click here
Personal & Social Education 3-18 years	23/06 14:00 – 15:30	Click here

Wakelets are a collection of links to health and wellbeing materials stored online, and all in one place. The links could take you to the National Improvement Hub, Glow, Websites, PDFs or YouTube.

[Health and wellbeing wakelet](#)

[Staff wellbeing wakelet](#)

[Inclusion, Wellbeing and Equalities wakelet](#)

Useful Health and wellbeing transitions information

[PDF file: Whole School Approach - Health and Wellbeing \(453 KB\)](#)

[SWAY presentation: Health and Wellbeing transitions](#)



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DigiLearnScot is a site that has all the upcoming webinars from the Digital team at Education Scotland. To access the link click [here](#).

Webinars recorded in the past can be found by clicking on the link [here](#).

The digital site continues to be updated with blog posts from across Scotland. To access these click [here](#).

Practitioners can create a blog post themselves [here](#).

Next Webinar – Blended maths 18th June, Blended Journals 25th June.

Education Scotland have hosted 3 further national themed practitioner led webinars in June which had a focus on Adult Literacies, Adult Learning and ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages). South Ayrshire CLD shared their ESOL Covid-19 practice at this event and practitioners also took the opportunity to share resources which are collated below:

[Adult Literacies Wakelet](#) [Adult Learning Wakelet](#) [ESOL Wakelet](#)

Transitions 2020 is a resource that provides practitioners with advice, guidance, signposting and practical resources to support children and young people through transitions in the context of COVID-19. These resources have been organised into 6 categories which aim to identify transition issues for children and young people at all stages: Early Learning and Childcare, primary, secondary and post-16. We have also included specific resources in the areas of HWB and ASN. Click [here](#) for the link.

Developing the Young Workforce wakelet, is an online offer that provides teachers and practitioners with relevant information, resources, tools and virtual learning opportunities. This can be accessed [here](#).

More professional guidance around DYW can be access [here](#).



The Wee blether events are continuing throughout the month of June with the possibility depending on demand for these to go on throughout the summer. [Click here](#) to access the blethers scheduled to continue.

There have also been a host of Big Blethers covering various themes in May and June such as CLD. The CLD Team at Education Scotland worked in partnership with the CLD Standards Council to facilitate the CLD Big Blether.

To support the implementation of 'Realising the Ambition: Being Me' in ELC settings and the early years of school, there was the first two #BeingMeBlethers that were supported by questions from the West and SW collaborative practitioners and teachers.



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<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/SouthAyrshire/swimprovementcollaborative/SitePages/Home.aspx>



@SWEIC2019

For further information regarding the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative please contact:

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