

D4LC and the Teacher Development Agency

National Drama, Norfolk County Council Children's Services and Kingston University have submitted a joint bid to the TDA for further post graduate accredited opportunities for D4LC teachers. This bid is focussed particularly on providing accreditation opportunities for teachers linked directly to their attendance of the long term drama course from 2008/09, "Drama as a Creative Teaching and Learning Medium" in addition to the successful completion of a written component. It is intended that teachers attending this innovative course may elect to also register for M-learning through Kingston University but can choose just to attend the course without seeking accreditation. If successful, this bid will enable teachers to gain 60 M-learning credits through Kingston University. Teachers who successfully gain both the Brighton and Kingston post graduate certificates would have 120 transferable M-Learning credits, equal to two thirds of a Masters Degree. The bid also states an intention to establish a third complementary D4LC linked post graduate certificate so that D4LC teachers nationally could complete an MA through working with three different Universities nationally. Discussions with a third University are underway.

National Drama International Conference St Aiden's College, Durham 8 - 11 April 2008

Book online at www.nationaldrama.co.uk
D4LC will be represented there and drama and theatre teachers and educators from around 40 countries worldwide will attend.

Teacher Learning Academy (TLA)

National Drama is a TLA partner, D4LC is now recognised by the TLA as a nationally available initiative directly linked to the TLA. The National Drama consultants involved in D4LC and Norfolk's Adviser for Arts Development and Improvement are in the process of becoming accredited as national TLA Leaders in order to be able to verify action research that D4LC teachers carry out in Norfolk and nationally. The TLA route is an option for all D4LC teachers who wish to carry out action research but may not

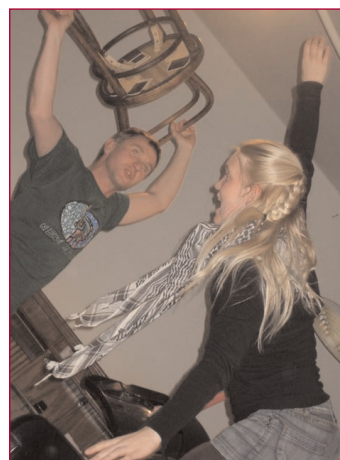
wish to do so at M-Level. D4LC teachers who are working at M-Level with the University of Brighton (and maybe next with Kingston University) can also register with the TLA if they wish and acquire additional validation for their action research.

Teachers' TV

National Drama has approached Teachers' TV. The company that at present commissions programmes for Teachers TV recently agreed to commission a one hour programme which will include D4LC (if the provider is successful in their current bid to continue as the programme provider). Programme content is still under discussion but it is likely to track four volunteer D4LC Phase 3 teachers (KS1, 2, 3, and Special School) as they learn more about drama through attending the longer drama course, work alongside D4LC drama specialists in classrooms and try putting their own developing drama skills into practice with their own classes.

SNIGL! D4LC Iceland

Three schools in Reykyavik and the University there have established a D4LC that translates as SNIGL. National Drama supported a successful funding bid to the Icelandic government on behalf of the Icelandic drama subject



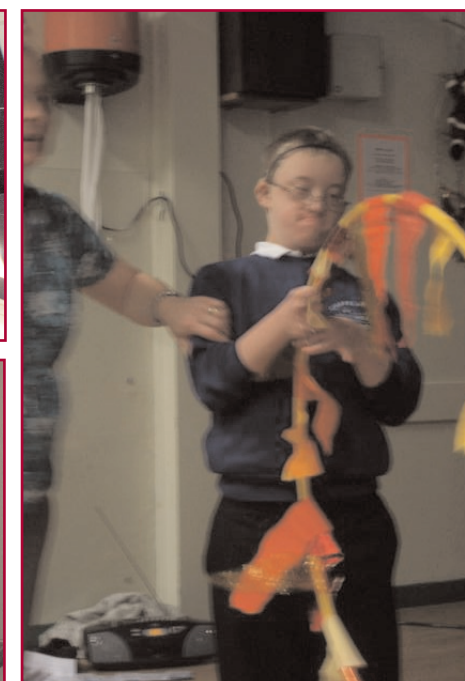
association. The Director of D4LC has received a letter from the Mayor of Reykyavik saying how important he thinks this opportunity is. Icelandic teachers have attended several Conferences in the UK at which D4LC was presented, including the Phase 2 Launch Conference in Norwich on 21st September 2007. The D4LC Director has worked with Icelandic teachers and the National Theatre Education Department in Reykyavik.

Newsletter - Update 3

Spring 2008

"D4LC is winning rave reviews from QCA"

Times Educational Supplement, October 2007



D4LC Phase 2 (Norfolk) 2007/8

D4LC Phase 2 is underway and is part of a National Strategy offer to Norfolk schools for 2007/8.

Sixty more Norfolk schools have registered as "D4LC Schools". This includes 9 Secondary schools, 4 Special Schools and 47 Primary schools. It brings the total number of D4LC schools in Norfolk to 120. The Norfolk Museum Service is also involved in D4LC now (Gressenhall and Great Yarmouth) as museum education staff sometimes use drama in their teaching.

website: www.d4lc.org

All D4LC teachers are requested to register with the D4LC website. Registration is also open to any teachers worldwide. There is a discussion forum that Norfolk's D4LC teachers are encouraged to use for gaining support or for sharing practice, resources and ideas. Please send any lessons for sharing, electronically, to patrice.baldwin@norfolk.gov.uk



Leading Drama Teachers (LDTs)

Four Norfolk teachers have now been recruited as Leading Drama teachers funded through the National Strategies. Two are secondary drama specialists, one is a KS1 teacher and one is a KS2 Teacher. These LDTs are being specifically attached to the D4LC initiative during 2007/8.

Advanced Skills Teachers (ASTs)

Advanced Skills Teachers of Drama and of Early Years are also part of the D4LC core team again for Phase 2. D4LC is one element of their work.

At Phase 2 Launch Conference

Phase 2 of D4LC was launched at a Conference at The Garage on Friday September 21st. It was appropriately opened by a Youth Theatre performance by Thrift Theatre Company and students from North Walsham High School (which is a Performing Arts College). Through a devised performance they communicated the message that the arts can be an educational lifeline for disaffected students.

Fred Corbett, the Deputy Director of NCC Children's Services welcomed the 120 teachers and headteachers and explained his continuing interest in and support of D4LC. Through working as an assessor for the Teaching Awards he has become aware that many nominees are drama teachers or have had significant drama training at some time.

Professor Jonathan Neelands from the University of Warwick gave an inspiring keynote speech on drama and how drama can contribute to school improvement. He also led both primary and secondary drama workshops.

Other workshop leaders included Pamela Bowell (Kingston University), Jude Ackroyd (University of Northampton) and Ruth Sayers (Bishop Grosseteste College).

The Conference gave those attending the experience of participating in high quality, "whole class" drama sessions led by nationally renowned drama specialists all of whom are members of National Drama.

English 21 (QCA)

D4LC is formally an important drama strand of English 21. National Drama regularly meets with QCA and will update an invited English 21 audience about D4LC in London on January 29th.



D4LC/QCA Curriculum Co-development Network

Several schools at the end of Phase 1 of D4LC decided that they wanted to carry on developing drama for learning and creativity, in partnership with QCA. They also wanted to involve all their staff (including all teaching assistants). Six Phase 1 schools successfully bid to become a match funded Primary Learning Network. They are now developing further their "in role" curriculum approaches and keeping track of the impact of this on children's achievement, particularly in writing.

The research focus is groups of children who schools recognise as "stuck" and making slow progress at transition from KS1 to KS2. These schools are hopeful that drama will prove to be key to improving "stuck" pupils engagement and progress. The D4LC co-development schools are Recreation Road Primary, Cecil Gowing Infant, Salhouse Primary, Heartsease Primary, Great Hockham Primary and Avenue Junior. Continuing to use parts of the D4LC model they created a Launch Conference at The Garage on October 14th for all staff (including TAs) and are accessing places on the longer drama course, "Drama as a Creative Teaching and Learning Medium".

Drama as a Creative Teaching and Learning Medium - fully booked!

This well established course led by Rob John (Vice Principal, Paston College, theatre director and playwright) and Patrice Baldwin (Adviser for Arts Development and Improvement and Chair of National Drama) was judged to be "excellent" by the Phase 1 external evaluator, Dr David Simpson (University of Brighton). It enables teachers from all phases of schools to work together fortnightly for a term. This longer course has proven significant and lasting impact on teacher competence and confidence to teach drama for learning and use drama approaches effectively across the curriculum. The next course commences on Tuesday, January 15th (6 - 9 pm) and is fully booked.

M-Learning Credits through the University of Brighton

D4LC teachers in Phase 2 have had the opportunity to register for a post graduate certificate in D4LC, accredited by the University of Brighton. Ten teachers have registered and their registration fees have been funded through the National Strategies. The certificate will be worth 60 M-learning credits, i.e. a third of a Masters degree. Their research outcomes will be important and may be disseminated nationally.

