

F.A.O: Headteachers, Gifted and Talented Leading Teachers/Co-ordinators

URGENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE GIFTED AND TALENTED REGISTER AND FUNDING

Part of the funding allocation for your school for Personalised Learning for 2008/9 will be based on the number of pupils on your Gifted and Talented register.

It is now timely to check that your register of pupils is **up to date** and that it has been submitted on your school census. If amendments are made to the number of pupils on your register then you need to inform **Brenda Emmott, Senior Adviser Local Authority Strategy Manager on (01603) 433276 by Friday 18th January.**

Update on developments at YG&T - the new national agency for G&T

It is now several months since Centre for British Teachers (CFBT) replaced National Association of Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY) as the national contractor for Gifted and Talented. It has since established Young Gifted and Talented (YG&T) as the official agency and launched its associated website for learners, parents/carers and teachers at www.ygt.dcsf.gov.uk. This contains a small but growing range of resources for teachers, and materials, outreach events and other opportunities for students.

Transfer of student membership details

YG&T have assured me that the membership details of students who were enrolled with NAGTY prior to August 2007 have been transferred across to YG&T and that these students have already been contacted by them. Unfortunately, there is less clarity over the situation regarding those students for whom application forms were sent to NAGTY in the late summer. It appears that some have been transferred and the students notified but others have gone astray in the changeover. If you have students whose details have not been acknowledged yet I suggest that you contact YG&T direct on their helpline number 0845 602 1732 or email them on ygt@cftb.com.

Becoming a member of YG&T

Eligibility for membership has been extended to the top 10% of the ability range rather than the 5% criterion used by NAGTY. YG&T is developing two forms of membership for students: Associate Membership and Full Membership. The notes below contain the latest information from YG&T on both forms of membership.

a. Associate Membership

- each school identifies its gifted and talented learners and notifies them that they have been so identified;
- schools are asked to encourage these learners to self-register on the YG&T website as an associate member;
- this gives him/her access to the resources, chat rooms and events publicised on the site;
- there are no forms to be filled at this stage by either school or student;
- it is possible for students to self-register independently without reference to the school or the eligibility criteria;

- when and if the associate member wishes to participate in an event advertised on the YG&T website, then an application form must be completed by the student and counter-signed by the school;
- YG&T are currently considering whether to provide a school-specific log-in function which would enable schools to see which of their students have applied for associate membership.

b. Full Membership

- the processes involved in becoming a full member are still under development at YG&T;
- therefore, full membership will not be available to new members until Spring 2008;
- although the details of full membership are not yet confirmed, YG&T expect that the application and validation for a student will be made by the school;
- they also anticipated that full membership will entitle the student to attend any of the G&T events advertised on the website without requiring an individual application for each, and will also provide access to some events specifically for full members.

Resources for teachers and schools

You may be aware that the NAGTY website contained a range of support materials for teachers. Some of these e.g. keynote presentations from conferences are now on the YG&T website but others including the Nutshells (20 minute tutorials on specific G&T issues) have not yet appeared. I have been informed that work is in progress to transfer the Nutshells but that no date can be given as to when this will be completed. However, the YG&T site is continuing to expand and colleagues are advised to check it fairly regularly for new materials and resources.

I will write to you again when there is further news about full membership for students. In the meantime, I suggest that your G&T Leading Teacher/Co-ordinator contacts YG&T directly about student matters. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 01603 433276 or jan.utting@norfolk.gov.uk with any queries about G&T provision in your school.

Yours sincerely

Jan Utting
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