

Community Education/ Extended Schools Newsletter

Extended Schools for Norfolk?

Recent DfES Pathfinder funding has put Norfolk at the forefront of the development of Extended Schools.

Below we answer some of your questions which will explain some of the advantages -

Q. So what is an Extended School?

A. Any school that provides a range of services and activities during and beyond the school day to help meet the needs of its pupils, parents and the wider community.

Q. Which services could we offer?

A. Study Support, Breakfast Clubs, Childcare, Adult Education, Youth Work, Connexions, Social Care, Health Care, Information and Advice Surgeries, Library and Museum Services, Arts activities, community events and meetings, sports activities, environmental activities, family learning, play schemes—a huge range and variety—and many more!

Q. Are schools allowed to do this?

A. Not only does the Education Act 2002 give school governors the power to provide such activities, the DfES and Norfolk LEA would positively welcome schools considering along with others how they might extend services to help regenerate and support communities.

Q. My school is not big enough to provide all those services?

A. Schools must feel able to choose which of these services (if any) they are best placed to provide.

Q. Staff and governors in the school are already busy so we need to be clear about the benefits

A. Schools offering extended activities and services have already seen major benefits.

Benefits for pupils and schools :

- higher levels of pupil achievement
- Increased pupil motivation and self-esteem
- Specialist support to meet pupils' wider needs
- Additional facilities and equipment
- Greater opportunities for staff for flexible working and career development
- Enhanced partnership working with the community and better school security
- Easier access to essential services for staff, helping staff recruitment and retention

Benefits for families:

- Improvements in child behaviour and social skills

- Greater parental involvement in children's learning
- More opportunities for local adult education and family learning
- Greater availability of specialist support for families

Benefits for communities:

- Better access to essential services
- Improved local availability of sports, arts and other facilities
- Local career development opportunities
- Better supervision of children outside school hours
- Closer relationships with the school

Q. Is there a model for an Extended School

A. No—there is no blueprint for the types of activities that schools might provide, or how they could be organised.

Extension can mean activities for pupils during the school day, activities for pupils, families and the community during the school day, evenings, weekends and holidays.

Working with local partners, supported by the LEA, schools can develop as little or as much provision as they think suitable for their own community.

Q. My school is already involved in initiatives which involve some of this thinking—have I missed something?

A. Not at all—an extended school can be built around any other initiative for example

- specialist status has strong elements of community engagement

- community education pilots are already well advanced in engaging their pupils, families and local communities in the learning element of Extended Schools

- playgroups, mum's and toddlers groups, study support, UFA activities are all activities which can provide a platform for an extended school

- parents groups, adult education activities, ICT groups, community lettings will give your school a head start.

Extended Schools (Continued)

Q. *I am interested but want to know more—what should I do?*

- A. Read the DfES guidance which you can find on <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk>
Also look on Esinet for the Community Education Handbook.

Q. *I need to talk my ideas through with someone—who?*

- A. Lots of people may be interested in joining you and your school in becoming part of an Extended School project.

Start with Governors, staff and anyone else currently engaged with your school in those sorts of activities which already exist and may provide a platform for extension.

Q. *Who can I contact in the LEA for advice, support and guidance?*

The Community Learning Section is keen to develop Norfolk Schools in this way so contact:

Martyn Livermore,
Lifelong Learning Development Officer
Deborah Duncan,
Study Support Development Officer
Terry Simons,
Extended Schools Project Manager

For childcare advice contact:

Marcelle Curtis, Head of Early Years & Childcare Strategy

Q. *Are there any Norfolk schools which might help me with my thinking?*

- A. Norfolk has been given Pathfinder status to develop Extended Schools:

Downham Market High School—Carol Beanland
Tel No. 01366 389029

Flegg High School—Sarah Minty
Tel No. 01493 740349

The Park High School/King Edward VII High School
- Wendy Asquith
Tel No. 01553 774671

These 3 projects/4 schools are our Pathfinders but the list of Community Education Pilot schools can also help (see list at back for contacts).

Q. *Can you give me one good reason to take this further?*

- A. Only one? - ask yourself if you can envisage your school at the heart of a vibrant, learning and developing community.

Campaign for Learning 2002 - Litcham win Best School

Litcham High School was the venue for this Family Learning event, held on October 12th. Families were invited to come along and experience something new, and they did—in great numbers.

Lifelong Learning was certainly catered for as four generations participated in the wide range of quality workshops and taster sessions on offer.

The main hall was a hive of activity as youngsters were treated to expert face painting, lead by Home-Start, and the play dough tables, proved extremely popular.

Cosmo, provided an inspiring circus skills workshop,

where great satisfaction was to be had as skills such as juggling, plate spinning or stilts were mastered. A well-planned window art workshop produced some wonderful results, as did the



chance to engrave your own glass. An inspiring fashion display was presented by the local Longham City & Guilds group, and Litcham Playgroup, the Police, St Johns Ambulance, Information Advice & Guidance and Adult Education were on hand to answer any queries.

Through the day echoes of African Drumming could

be heard, and so many enthused over how much they had enjoyed the experience. This workshop, along with an equally popular D. J. skills workshop, were provided by Norfolk Music Works.



There was also an opportunity for families to have a look at their ancestors in a wonderful presentation of photographs and documents put together by The Litcham Museum and local photographer, Stephen Olley. On a sporting note, a 'Kuk Sool Won' display and workshop ran throughout the day, and relaxation could be sort in the very popular Yogacise class. The family football tournament was a great success. It saw 'Team Barnes' come out overall champions.

The weekend events were rounded off by trip to the Skate Park in Norwich on Sunday, which was enjoyed by all who went.

Comments from both days included words like "wicked" "awesome" "fun" and "when's the next one?"

Eileen Alger
Litcham High School

Fun for All at Wells Community Centre

From puppets to a playbus and clay to computers there was a host of activities as more than 400 people took part in the Fun for All event at Wells Maltings Community Centre and surrounding venues.

Norfolk Music Works provided drums and helped others discover an African rhythm. A double-decker playbus proved popular alongside puppet-making, clay creations, calligraphy, handmade books, DJ skills, basic IT, brain gym, local history quiz, storytelling, poetry and samba. Students from Alderman Peel High School provided refreshments and Step into Learning representatives were on hand with a free crèche for the under-fives.

The Green Quay at King's Lynn brought along a microscope and some coughed-up owl pellets for the budding scientists. The participation from the children

was excellent and it proved to be a really popular hands-on learning activity.

"People came from all over Norfolk and talked positively about their experience, going home with something they had made or discovered" said Fiona MacCallum, event organiser and Community Education Worker for Wells.

The event benefited from a share of the £10,000 funding made available from the Learning & Skills Council supporting family learning events and builds on the success of the October event held at the Alderman Peel High School.

Fiona MacCallum
Alderman Peel High School

Working with people with basic needs in Sheringham

Unlikely as this may seem to outsiders, there is a considerable need for basic skills work in Sheringham as well as being a priority of lifelong learning, it was certainly one of my priorities.

I thought initially I would get some advice from the Job Centre and contacted Roger Lemon who helped me to identify a number of key roads that would help me contact the appropriate people. I thought I would take a cold calling approach as this suited by personality and "gift of the gab". In operating in this way I adopted three principles.

- Wear a permanent identification badge.
- Never enter a house, even if invited.
- Always inform someone at base where you are going.

By chance the first door upon which I knocked provided me with the perfect start. A young single mum, Tracey answered the door. We got chatting. She told me that she had always wanted to learn book keeping, but did not have the information. This led on to a discussion about computers. I knew that nowadays computer literacy was essential to work in this field. One of the main difficulties facing Tracey was lack of childcare facilities in the vicinity.

I undertook to research the possibilities and return with the information. Eventually I came up with a course run by West Anglia for IT beginners. The main incentive was that it was free. Arrangements were made for Tracey's toddler to be looked after by her mum.

Tracey went with her mum to register and she started on the course. She took to it like a duck to water. Completed the first course and went on to undertake an intermediate IT course. She has also gone on to undertake the written part of her driving test. Tracey's enthusiasm and involvement helped her mum who Tracey persuaded to undertake a computer course run at

Sheringham High School. What is so encouraging is that this families' participation in learning has, I believe, changed their attitudes towards education, so that the toddler will grow up in an environment more sympathetic to learning.

After this success and a few others, I decided to reinforce my contact with the local community. I talked to the Sheringham Health Centre Manager to discuss the possibility of organising a small stall and contact point at the centre. People could take leaflets from the stall and I would approach selected people after they had been in to see the doctor.

Once again this initiative brought me into contact with greater numbers in the community, although I was careful in only approaching and engaging certain people in conversation. One of my contacts was a man—Peter—who from our initial contact appeared to be well qualified. Peter explained that he was not interested in learning anything new. However as we chatted on he explained that he was embarrassed at being in a group of people.

As a result of our conversation, I persuaded Peter to go with me to meet the Sheringham School librarian who runs the computer course and who was prepared to provide individual support and tuition. Peter agreed to attend on a regular basis and is now computer literate. A great achievement for a man who would have never had been able to find this pathway without some assistance.

My experiences in operating both the above approaches has borne considerable fruit and enable me to reach people in Sheringham, that no others have reached.

Kevin Levy
Sheringham Learning Community

School	Com Ed Worker/Contact	Telephone No.	E-mail address
Acle High School	Janis Austin	01493 750431	
Alderman Peel High School	Fiona MacCallum	01328 710476	
Archbishop Sancroft High	Steve Carter (HT)	01379 852561	
Aylsham High	Vanessa Scargill	01283 733270	
Caister High	Paul Miller	01493 720542	
Catton Grove Middle	Tim Lawes (HT)	01603 426728	
City of Norwich	Thea Abbott	01603 454015	
Downham Market High	Caroline Ridsdill	01366 389029	
Earlham High	Julie Brazell	01603 452628	
Fakenham High	Andy Williams (Dep. HT)	01328 862545	
Flegg High	Sarah Minty	01493 740349	
Great Yarmouth High & Cluster	Debra Gates	01493 842061	
Litcham High	Eileen Alger	01328 701265	
Long Stratton High	Paul Playford	01508 531244	
Marshland High	Pam Semper	01945 584146	
Methwold High	Jo-Anne Ryan	01366 728333	
Norman First & Nursery	Sarah Kausch	01603 427758	
North Walsham High	Jane Maguire	01692 402581	sjmaguire0401@aol.com
Notre Dame High	Gina Rose	01603 611431	office@notredamehigh.norfolk.sch.uk
Reepham High	Jan Munn	01603 870328	
Sprowston High	Liz Matthews	01603 485266	
The Blyth Jex	Kate O'Halloran	01603 411721	
The James Bradfield Primary	Chris Hollier	01366 501050	
The Park High, K. Lynn	Wendy Asquith	01553 774671	
Thorpe St. Andrew High	Alan Syder	01603 497711	
Weasenham Primary	Eddie Evans	01328 838365	shamwari@route56.co.uk
West Walton Community Primary	Maggie Barwell	01945 583620	
Sheringham Learning Community	Kevin Levy	01263 822363	Kevin@newson-levy.Freeserve.co.uk
Swaffham Learning Community	Chris Heron	01760 726106	
Wymondham Learning Community	Kate Wood	01953 601051	
Extended Schools Pathfinders			
Downham Market High	Carol Beanland	01366 389029	
Flegg High	Sarah Minty	01603 740349	
The Park High/King Edward VII	Wendy Asquith	01553 774671	