



WELCOME

Work has continued apace in recent months, with groups of teachers working on high level design of the six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE) that will be the core of the new curriculum. The groups have searched out best practice and expertise whilst sounding out stakeholders and debating the best way of staying true to the Four Purposes as recommended by Professor Graham Donaldson. Professional Learning Pioneers have now been integrated with Curriculum and Digital Pioneers to make sure that teacher development opportunities complement the requirements of the curriculum.

In this issue we feature:

- [Developing the Areas of Learning and Experience – Summary Papers and Video Interviews](#)
- [Working conference 10th/11th July - watch key sessions from the event](#)
- [Qualifications Reform relating to the new Curriculum – Press Release](#)
- [Digital Competence Framework - new Tools](#)
- [Professional Learning update: self-improving schools](#)
- [National Network for Excellence in Mathematics – launch](#)
- [Review of Estyn announced](#)
- [Blog Update!](#)

Developing the Areas of Learning and Experience – Summary Papers and Video Interviews

The early structures developed by the AoLE groups, as described in their summary papers, are now going through a quality enhancement process with external experts. Subject to the outcomes the more detailed development will begin in the Autumn term.

Each paper contains views on: how the AoLE promotes the four purposes; scope and boundaries; how best to present the various component subjects and/or strands within the AoLE; and a commentary on the presumed levels of specificity throughout the AoLE, with the reasoning behind that.

The papers have all been bound into one report, but readers with an interest in a specific AoLE can scroll down through the list which appears in this order: Expressive Arts; Health and Wellbeing; Humanities; Literacy, Languages and Communication; Mathematics and Numeracy; Science and Technology.

[Summary Papers](#)

Brief interviews featuring AoLE representatives talking about the work, progress so far, and the impact it is already beginning to have, can be viewed on the [Curriculum for Wales Blog](#)

[Back to top](#)

Working conference 10th/11th July - watch key sessions from the event

Two hundred teachers joined Consortia, Estyn and Qualifications Wales in Llandudno on 10th and 11th July to share progress, join up the main themes and plan for the next steps in development of the forthcoming Curriculum for Wales – the detailed population of the AoLEs. Key presentations at the event included an overview of progress, the future direction of qualifications reform, schools as learning organisations, professional learning, development of bilingual resources and next steps for curriculum development. The key presentations were streamed live via the internet, garnering nearly 200 watchers on day 1, but the footage is still available and can be watched here https://www.pscp.tv/WG_Education

[Back to top](#)

Qualifications Reform relating to the new Curriculum – Press Release

A press release issued by Qualifications Wales following the conference can also be seen here <http://qualificationswales.org/news/110717-pioneer-schools-press-release/?lang=en>

[Back to top](#)

Digital Competence Framework - new Tools

Two new tools have been made available this term to help schools implement the Digital Competence Framework. The [Curriculum Mapping Tool](#) helps them map current practice against the framework, to identify areas of good practice or gaps in delivery. The [Professional Learning Needs Tool](#) helps practitioners identify the areas where they already feel confident and areas where they feel they need further development.

[Back to top](#)

Professional Learning update: Schools as Learning Organisations

Professional Learning pioneer schools have been working in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as part of an international study to '*develop schools as learning organisations*' (SLO). The SLO approach forms a key component of Wales' reform effort, aiming to boost collective innovation capacity inside and outside the system.

For a small nation it is essential that we pool our resources and expertise and work together as part of a self-improving system to provide mutual support and challenge. The SLO model will inform school self-evaluation and develop thriving a professional learning culture to enable staff to continuously learn together to innovate their practice.

Following Summer term pilots, work is underway with consortia regions, Estyn and OECD to develop a wider SLO Implementation Strategy to support and enable all schools to focus on the journey towards becoming an effective learning organisation. A formal SLO launch is scheduled during the Autumn Term.

[Working conference 10th/11th July - watch SLO sessions from day 2 of the event](#)

[Back to top](#)

National Network for Excellence in Mathematics

The Cabinet Secretary launched the National Network for Excellence in Mathematics at a Cardiff High school on Friday 14th July.

<http://gov.wales/newsroom/educationandskills/2017/drive-to-improve-maths-in-schools-launched/?lang=en>

The network will play a key role in the Cabinet Secretary national mission to raise standards in Welsh schools. The network involves schools, colleges, universities and the four regional education consortia - working together to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics and numeracy in Wales, in support of the new curriculum developments.

The NNEM zone on Hwb was also launched and is now live:

<http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/nnem>

[Back to top](#)

Review of Estyn announced

An independent review of the role of Estyn in supporting education reform was announced by the Cabinet Secretary for Education Kirsty Williams and the Chief Inspector, Meilyr Rowlands on 4th July.

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/news/drive-improve-education-heart-estyn-review>

[Back to top](#)

Blog Update!

A pupil's view of the forthcoming curriculum (a completely independent contribution!), a post on Wales leading on education reform from Professor Donaldson, and the story of how one school helped another to implement the Digital Competence Framework, have all featured recently on the [Curriculum for Wales Blog](#). Now achieving an average of 100 visitors and 215 page views per day (July '17), the blog is becoming established as a great source of updates and opinion. Do take a look.

[Back to top](#)

Thank you.



Follow us @wg_education

Retweet and share our #curriculumforwales #digitalcompetence



Like and follow us at Education Wales

[Back to top](#)