

VESA welcomes new team members

Jo Charlesworth



Jo originally trained as a knitwear and Textile Designer and worked for a range of local manufacturing companies designing ranges for the major high street retailers. In the mid eighties Jo returned to education full time to study for a teaching qualification and on completion took up a post at South Fields College as a lecturer in Fashion. After many re-structures and the amalgamation of South Fields and Charles Keene College Jo was appointed Curriculum Area Manager for Visual and Performing Arts, a wide ranging post that included responsibility for the management, development and delivery of visual studies, fashion, footwear, music and performing arts courses.

In 2004 she moved to take up a post within the Leicestershire School Improvement Service as a 13-19 area partnership coordinator. Jo's role with the Area Planning Partnership Groups (APPGs) in North Charnwood and North West Leicestershire has involved working with all institutions and with other key partners in the 13-19 arena to manage and facilitate area collaboration and planning of education and training provision. Over the last 12 months her work with the APPGs has focused on supporting and leading on the Gateway application process.

In addition to her new 0.5 fte role with VESA, Jo will continue with her work with the North West Leicestershire partnership and will be managing the implementation of the Engineering diploma due to commence in September 2008.

Jo also represents the county partnerships and VESA on the County Curriculum and Quality Group.

Jo's new VESA responsibilities will include:-

- Diploma development and supporting locality planning
- Co-ordinating KS3 support
- Co-ordinating links with County schools, colleges and partnerships

Liz Hayes



Liz originally taught Drama in the East End of London and then moved to the Midlands teaching in two schools and holding a number of positions including Head of Special Needs, Head of Sixth Form and Senior Management. She later became Deputy Director of TVEI in Solihull promoting 14-19 opportunities and vocational education. When this project came to an end she moved into FE with a range of remits and responsibilities including school/FE links, access to teaching and core skills. For a number of years Liz worked freelance developing her own educational management and vocational training programmes.

Liz joined Edexcel/BTEC devising and delivering training programmes in FE and schools to support quality assurance, curriculum developments and supporting the delivery of new qualifications. During this time Liz was involved in the development and implementation of Edexcel/BTEC Skills for Working Life and other Entry level programmes. She had responsibility for the national training programme for Key Skills and worked closely with schools and colleges. Liz also delivered training in Malaysia, Africa and India.

In 2004 Liz moved to support a new partnership of 10 schools and a large FE College in East Birmingham. The partnership, funded by LSC, was successful in gaining a large ESF work based learning project placing 75 KS4 students on WBL and Apprenticeship schemes.

Liz will be working 0.5 fte and her new VESA responsibilities will include:-

- Diploma development and supporting locality planning
- CPD for vocational developments and support for Functional Skills
- Supporting Health and Social Care, Psychology and KS4 Engagement curriculum developments.

Bill Leivers



Between 1987 and 2007, Bill worked at Loughborough College undertaking a variety of roles including Deputy Head of the Faculty of Community and General Education. From 2002 to 2007, Bill held a senior management position, as Manager of Inclusiveness with cross-college responsibility for 13-16 development, Equal Opportunities, Every Child Matters, and tutoring. Bill managed the cross-college tutorial system at Loughborough College for 15 years and developed and implemented a progress file based tutorial process for all Loughborough College students.

He contributed to a national group in the development of the post-16 Progress File model - 'Widening Horizons' and participated in the Leicestershire Progress File demonstration project between 1999 and 2002.

Bill managed a JISC project to develop an electronic post-16 Progress File and, by means of local funding, versions for Key Stage 3 and 4 school students have also been developed.

He is also involved in the Leicestershire Inter-Authority 14-19 learning prospectus project,

Bill is a member of the North Charnwood Area Partnership Group and contributed significantly to the development of the 13-19 curriculum in North Charnwood between 2001 and 2007

Prior to working at Loughborough College, Bill taught Design at Rushey Mead School in Leicester and during this period was an OCEA (Oxford Certificate of Educational Achievement) teacher fellow.

Bill's new VESA responsibilities will include:-

- Foundation Learning Tier developments
- Support for the FE and WBL collaborative link programme
- Diploma development and supporting locality planning



Raising Achievement through LPDP

Exam results for a number of schools and colleges in Leicester and Leicestershire were boosted this summer by student achievement through LPDP (Leicester/shire Personal Development Programme).

LPDP is the locally devised programme used by some schools and colleges to deliver aspects of the Personal Development Curriculum including aspects of PSHE, WRL (Careers and Work Experience), Financial Literacy and Citizenship. The programme is accredited through the National Open College Network's (NOCN) qualification in Careers Education and Preparation for Working Life. The qualification is available at both Intermediate and Foundation Level.

Schools and colleges delivering LPDP include:

- City of Leicester
- Countesthorpe
- Longslade
- Moat Community College
- New College
- Riverside
- Rushey Mead
- Soar Valley

The schools and colleges delivering this programme/qualification say it has made a huge improvement to the delivery of the Personal Development Curriculum in their

institutions helping to raise not only achievement but also student motivation. In addition, it has had a most positive impact on student, staff and parent perceptions of this important core curriculum area.

The percentage increase in 5 A*-Cs directly attainable to LPDP ranged from 2% to 6%. Pass rates for 2007 ranged from 80% to 100%. The vast majority of students were entered for Level 2 (equivalent to BB). A very small number were entered for Level 1. Given that many of the schools had targeted learners for the Level 2 qualification with considerable success, the LPDP Consortium will also focus this academic year on developing strategies to raise achievement at Level 1 in conjunction with FLT developments (Foundation Learning Tier).

NOCN is currently awaiting final QCA approval for a more flexible and varied version of the existing qualification. Schools and colleges across the country are 'queuing up' to be part of this exciting new pilot. Because of its long history of successful delivery of the NOCN qualification, Leicester/shire schools will automatically become part of this national pilot.

For further information contact kay.ives@vesa.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

VESA 13-19 Curriculum Conference
29th November 2007
Beaumanor Hall

Health & Social Care Student Conference Level 2
10th December 2007
Leicester Tigers

East Midlands Curriculum Conference
31st January & 1st February 2008
Stoke Rochford Hall

Work Experience Conference
21st February 2008
Beaumanor Hall

Health & Social Care Student Conference Level 3
17th March 2008
Leicester Tigers

Foundation Learning Tier Curriculum Conference
22nd May 2008
Beaumanor Hall

VESA 13-19 Curriculum Conference
5th June 2008
Beaumanor Hall

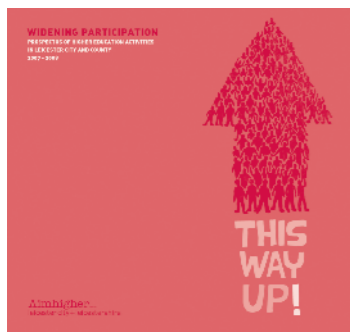
Leicester shire Personal Development Programme LPDP Consortium Residential
12th & 13th June 2008
Launde Abbey

13 - 19 Education Support Agency

VESA

Leicester + shire

Knighton Fields Centre, Herrick Road, Leicester LE2 6DH
Tel: 0116 270 7942 Fax: 0116 270 9759
E-mail: firstname.lastname@vesa.org.uk
www.vesa.org.uk



Widening Participation

Are you looking for opportunities to raise the aspirations and attainment of your Aimhigher cohort? Or to stretch your gifted and talented students? Do you want to enhance your students' understanding of University/Higher Education options?

The new, easy to use Aimhigher Leicester City + Leicestershire Prospectus of Activities has something for you. It contains tips on identifying your cohort and also helps you to plan a coherent programme of activities for groups or individual students. Activities are designed to challenge your students. Some relate closely to the school curriculum, others are broader and introduce new topics found in Higher Education. All of them are designed to be engaging and stimulating to students.

For your copy of the Aimhigher Prospectus please contact Janet Noyce at the VESA office.



The Way Ahead Project was set up 3 years ago to look at raising the attainment and achievement of children in care. The project has been extremely successful in meeting its original objectives of:-

- Improving the potential learning and progression opportunities for looked after children into post 16 and H.E. options
- Enhancing the skills and knowledge of carers, social workers and other professionals working with looked after children.
- Catering for the specific needs of Gifted & Talented looked after children

Sadly, Sang Townsley will be leaving the project at the end of September to continue her work for Connexions. Our thanks to Sang for the excellent work she has done and to all those colleagues who have supported the project over the past 3 years.

We are very pleased that discussions are underway in Leicester City about how to take forward and mainstream the project in the future.

For more information about the Way Ahead project please contact either Tim Farthing at the VESA office or Jane Millward (milj003@leicester.gov.uk)

CPD - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

During 2007-8, we will continue to work closely with our key stakeholders to provide VESA service users with support for the wide ranging CPD and Workforce Development challenges arising from the 13-19 Implementation agenda.

The VESA programme of CPD opportunities comprises Conferences, management and subject-based networks and a growing range of specific training and development events. As well as ongoing support for existing areas of the curriculum, we respond to evolving needs and priorities, working with individual centres and area partnerships to manage change and raise standards.

We also work with a range of external agencies such as SSAT & LSN (The Key and Functional Skills Support Programmes), and the major Awarding Bodies to attract resources and expertise to the area in order to enhance our local CPD activity.

All schools and colleges and partner organisations can access this VESA programme with charges varying to reflect chosen levels of subscription

If you wish to find out more contact Stuart King at the VESA office.

Features of our CPD Programme this academic year include:

- **BTEC Support Programme** a range of generic and subject specific sessions
- **Vocational Curriculum Support Programme** themed events focusing on aspects of classroom practice, relevant to vocational and applied courses at Levels 1-3
- **Skills Support Programme** new this year. Previous skills initiatives have begun to metamorphose into Functional Skills and Personal Learning & Thinking Skills (PLTS), part of the "New" Secondary Curriculum (11-16) and writ large within 14-19 developments, including Diplomas. (In the lead up to the introduction of Functional Skills for all, VESA will work with LA colleagues responsible for Secondary Strategy to devise a programme which complements their ongoing work.
- **Foundation Learning Tier** (incorporating what was previously termed the Alternative Curriculum). Leicester has been a test-bed for the FLT as part of the national FLT initiative. VESA will seek to build on this experience, working with local schools and colleges to develop and shape local provision.

Schools & Colleges still enthusiastic about progress file

In the last week of the summer term, a very successful "Progress File Revisited" day took place at Beaumont Leys CLC. This event was jointly organised by VESA and Connexions Leicester shire and was attended by over 30 delegates from local schools and colleges and other partner organisations.

The purpose of the day was to provide an introduction to Progress File principles and practice for new staff in schools and colleges with responsibility for this aspect of the curriculum. It also provided a "refresher" for some delegates who are experienced in the delivery of Progress File and related developments.

The organisers, Cathy Sibley [Connexions Leicester shire] and Tim Farthing [VESA] were particularly pleased that there is still considerable enthusiasm for

the use of Progress File and much good practice in how it is being used with learners. Many examples of this were shared throughout the morning session. Charlie Corcoran from Longslade CC and David Mitchell from the Martin High School, Anstey shared their experiences of using Progress File and highlighted how it is harnessed to support transition.

Cathy also set out the arrangements, led by Connexions, enabling schools and colleges to order a local Progress File Folder and Presenter in 2007/08 and we are now optimistic that there will be sufficient orders to make this viable in the next academic year.

The afternoon session saw Bill Leivers, now with VESA and Fiona Henry from Loughborough College demonstrate the local Key Stage 3, 4 and Post 16 versions of the

e-progress file/ILP (Individual Learning Plan). Delegates were given the opportunity to use this on-line product to improve their understanding of its key features and were invited to submit expressions of interest in being part of a "managed" roll-out next year. As a result of this 16 schools and colleges in the City and County will be part of this "managed" roll out in 2007/08 [watch this space!]

It is hoped that the e-PF/ILP will be made more widely available in 2008/09 alongside the 13-19 Learning Prospectus and Le-CAP [on-line application process]

For further information on Progress Files please contact Tim Farthing or Bill Leivers at the VESA office or Cathy Sibley at Connexions Leicester shire CLAS Team on 0116 261 5920

'Didn't they do well?'

In 2005, 120 students from 9 schools embarked on an ESF project entitled 'Pathways to Vocational Achievement'.

The aim of the project was to provide a vocationally relevant curriculum to students identified in KS3 as seriously at risk of becoming disengaged and/or underachieving at KS4. Of the 120 students starting the project 81% (97) actually completed the whole 2 year programme in June '07, which exceeded the project completion target by 10%. In completing the programme some important targets were achieved:

- 41% improved attendance in KS4
- School attendance averaged 83% across the project
- Exclusions were significantly down (the project cohort recorded 586 exclusions in Yr 9 compared to 159 days in Yr 10 and 130 in Yr 11)
- 3 schools had no exclusions in Yr 11
- 92% of the project group achieved a nationally recognised qualification.

The outcomes of the project clearly demonstrate what can be achieved with a challenging group of students by providing a curriculum that is more personalised to individual needs. Having the flexibility to offer students the opportunity to take part in a wide range of off-site experiences, including FE/training placements, extended work placements, outdoor activities etc, has generally helped students' motivation and achievement across their whole programme. Also, most project schools have introduced new relevant qualifications, such as ALAN, ASDAN Youth Award, COPE, Key Skills Basic Food Hygiene, which has been a key feature in schools engaging students.

It is important to recognise and emphasise the crucial role that the school project co-ordinators and delivery teams have had in

encouraging students to maximise the opportunities presented to them. Their philosophy (that the students on the project were students with problems, not problem students), was vitally important and translated into the positive way they designed programmes.

The real success of the programme will be measured in what happens post 16. Initial evidence regarding intended destinations was very encouraging with almost 65% of students looking to progress into full-time education. A number of students had secured an apprenticeship as a result of successful extended work placements. It is the project's intention to monitor these students through their first year after leaving school in order to see if the programme has had some lasting effect - watch this space!

For further details please contact Graham Conway at the VESA office

Progress File Update

In the last week of the summer term, a very successful "Progress File Revisited" day took place at Beaumont Leys CLC. This event was jointly organised by VESA and Connexions Leicester shire and was attended by over 30 delegates from local schools and colleges and other partner organisations.

The purpose of the day was to provide an introduction to Progress File principles and practice for new staff in schools and colleges who had responsibility for this aspect of the curriculum. It also provided a "refresher" for some delegates who are experienced in the delivery of Progress File and related developments.

The organisers, Cathy Sibley [Connexions Leicester shire] and Tim Farthing [VESA] were particularly pleased to hear that, despite DfES's decision to withdraw national support for Progress File in 2006, there is still considerable enthusiasm for the use of Progress File and much good practice in how it is being used with learners. Many examples of this were shared throughout the morning session. Charlie Corcoran from Longslade CC and David Mitchell from the Martin High School, Anstey shared their experiences of using Progress File and highlighted how it is harnessed to support transition.

Cathy also set out the arrangements, led by Connexions, enabling schools and colleges to order a local Progress File Folder and Presenter in 2007/08 and we are now optimistic that there will be sufficient orders to make this viable in the next academic year.

Roll out of e-progress file & ILP

The afternoon session saw Bill Leivers and Fiona Henry

from Loughborough College demonstrate the local Key Stage 3, 4 and Post 16 versions of the e-progress file/ILP (Individual Learning Plan). Delegates were given the opportunity to use the on-line product to improve their understanding of its key features and attributes and were invited to submit expressions of interest in being part of a "managed" roll-out next year. As a result of this 16 schools and colleges in the City and County will be part of this "managed" roll out in 2007/08 [details below].

Abington High School
Leysland High School
Countesthorpe Community College
South Leicestershire College
Garendon High School
Shepshed High School
Quorn Rawlins
Hind Leys
Brooksby Melton College
Longslade CC
William Bradford CC
Heathfield High School
Castle Rock High School
Newbridge High School
Judgemeadow CC
Sir Jonathan North

It is hoped that the e-PF/ILP will be made more widely available in 2008/09 alongside the 13-19 Learning Prospectus and Le-CAP [on-line application process]

If you are interested in finding out more about Progress File or any information in this article please do not hesitate to contact Tim Farthing or Bill Leivers at the VESA office or Cathy Sibley at Connexions Leicester shire CLAS Team on 0116 261 592