

# Curriculum for Excellence in the Highlands



## Curaicealam airson Sàr-mhathais anns a' Ghàidhealtachd

### From the Director's desk.....

*Working together to inspire learning and  
achievement in Highland communities.*

*A' toirt piseach còmhla air ionnsachadh  
is coileanadh ann an Coimhearsnachdan  
na Gàidhealtachd.*

Welcome to the first of a series of newsletters providing updates on the ongoing implementation of Curriculum for Excellence across Highland. At the outset, I would take this opportunity to thank all staff for their enthusiasm and commitment as they work through what CfE means in the local situation.

### Curriculum for Excellence – why?

In the world of education we are currently in the midst of what many feel is a once in a lifetime opportunity to really change the way we do things. CfE is all about bringing life to learning and learning to life, a process where staff in schools, parents and many other agencies can work together in partnership to raise standards of learning and teaching, and, in so doing, improve our children's life chances.

### Revolution or evolution?

For many people change is a pretty uncomfortable experience,

especially if it is wholesale change. So does the arrival of Curriculum for Excellence mean wholesale change? The answer is an unequivocal 'No!' Maintaining quality education for our children and young people is of paramount importance, and any changes to the curriculum need to be made in a measured and careful way.

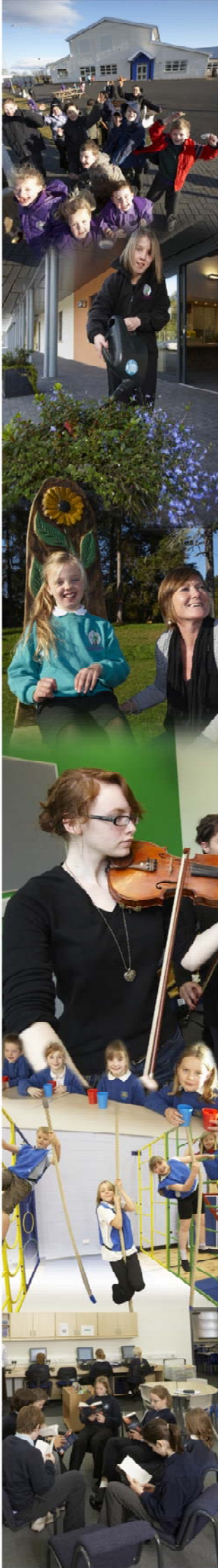
You will no doubt be familiar with the expectation that CfE will be 'fully implemented' by August 2010. This means that the first cohort to experience CfE will be current P7 pupils as they move into S1. However, the approach in Highland – as in many other local authorities – will be a gradual approach to full implementation. There are, of course, national timelines such as new qualifications being introduced in due course. The curriculum will inevitably change, and the Quality Improvement Team, working with its expanded team of development officers (see below), Head Teachers and staff in schools, is supporting schools as they work through what this means in the local situation.

### So what's happening in Highland?

As always, I am enormously encouraged by the range and quality of development work going on in our schools – ably

Successful learners      Confident individuals      Responsible citizens      Effective contributors





demonstrated by the superb two day CfE Showcase event held at Dingwall Academy in October. Around 2,000 staff attended over the 2 days, with a choice of over 125 seminars and presentations. You can catch up with what went on at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdeRAAcmb4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdeRAAcmb4) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvb-5ofvDzo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvb-5ofvDzo)

### CfE officers appointed

In order to support the Quality Improvement Team and staff in schools in the development and implementation of CfE, a further 6 development officers have been appointed until the end of session. The expanded development team now comprises:

- Karen Craig** – Leadership
- John Finlayson** – Enterprise
- Eilidh Grant** – Curriculum support (secondary)
- Bill Irwin** – Curriculum & assessment (secondary)
- Paul Oparka** – Curriculum & assessment (primary)
- Karen Ross** – Numeracy
- Lorna Sim** - Literacy
- Terry Kerr** – CPD

### Websites

One area where we are looking to improve is in the design and use of our own websites. With a mixture of policy documents and curricular support materials, particularly in relation to CfE, appearing on both the highland.gov and hvlc websites, and with the increasing use of GLOW, the time is now right for us to rationalise our websites.

Of course, there's a huge amount of information already available

on CfE, and staff should be familiarising themselves with what's on the Scottish Government's site at [www.curriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk](http://www.curriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk)

There's also lots of useful information for parents at [www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk](http://www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk) For Highland related information and support materials, see, for example, the LTA policy at <http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/supportforschoolstaff/ltt/ltt-policy/> and <http://www.highlandschools-virtualib.org.uk/ltt/>

For all strategic CfE plans and school planning formats etc : <http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/supportforschoolstaff/cfe/>

### Finally .....

You should recently have received information regarding the Parental Toolkit, a very helpful resource in assisting schools to keep parents informed about and involved in CfE. You'll find it at [www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/buildingthecurriculum/engagingwithparents/index.asp](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/buildingthecurriculum/engagingwithparents/index.asp)

Clearly, there's lots of work ahead and we need to ensure lines of communication remain open. I trust this series of CfE newsletters will be helpful in keeping you informed of progress, and would encourage you to share it with all interested parties, including parents.

**Hugh Fraser**  
**Director of Education, Culture & Sport**

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