

## Special educational needs and disability: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk>

To promote the welfare and interests of disabled children, and to improve the support they receive, teachernet provides a wide range of SEN and disability advice and materials for teachers, parents, local authorities (LAs) and others working with children with SEN in England.

You will find information about implementing disability discrimination legislation in schools and about Aiming High for Disabled Children [here](#).

Among others, this site may prove valuable for parents, carers, schools, SEN governors, teachers, professionals and learning assistants.

### Latest news

**Changes in the handling of parental complaints about SEN services and provision by Las.** The DCSF has been looking at ways of improving the current arrangements for dealing with parental complaints. As a result they have extended the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) to deal with complaints about LA SEN provision. [Read about the changes in the handling of parental complaints](#)

### Access arrangements for general qualifications

Read a [reminder](#) about access arrangements for disabled pupils undertaking general qualifications.

### Consortium appointed to develop accessible curriculum materials for visually impaired and dyslexic pupils

Read more [here](#).

## The Diploma: Music star Kano and Diploma students launch TV advert

Multi award-winning British music artist Kano is backing the new Diploma qualification after starring in a TV advert launched on the 11th January 2010. Figures released last month show there are now more than 36,000 young people taking the Diploma.

The advert shows the young people being congratulated by Kano for their work on different parts of Kano's music video shoot and production. Kano, who contributed to the campaign in order to help inspire young people to aim high and achieve their aims, said: **"I wanted to be involved in this project because there are too many kids who don't think they can make it to the top. They give up before they've even started and that's wrong – everyone can succeed, and it's really important that young people believe in themselves."**

Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, said: **"The Diploma students involved in Kano's inspirational video are the best evidence of what can be achieved with the right opportunities. We offer young people a range of options so that they do the qualifications that are right for them – the Diploma, GCSEs, A levels, Apprenticeships. This means every young person now has the chance to learn in a way that suits them, and to enjoy success at school or college and later on in life."**

The Government's newly launched Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) strategy helps ensure that young people have the support they need to make confident choices about the different options available to them, and are supported at every stage of their education and training.



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## Spring 2010

**Happy New Year!** As I am sure you are aware the Connexions Education Team has moved their base to Thompson House, Sandy Lane, Newport, and can now be contacted on: **01983 533523 ext:192/193**. All of the information and promotional resources are stored at Thompson House and can be accessed at any time during office hours. Should you need anything to be delivered to your school/college please let me know and I will get it to you.

**Update:** Spring update has a range of information which I hope is of interest to you and your colleagues. If you experience problems with any of the attachments, feel free to contact me for the originals or download the Spring Update (PDF) from the local Connexions website: [www.iwight.com/connexions](http://www.iwight.com/connexions).

## DCSF: Disengagement from education among 14-16 year olds.

**New DCSF Research.** New research from the DCSF on ['Disengagement from Education among 14-16 year olds'](#) has sought to identify a typology of engaged/disengaged young people using information on their behaviours, attitudes and motivations available in the Longitudinal study of young people in England (LSYPE.) The research aimed to answer the following:

- What are the main types of engaged / disengaged young people in England, and what proportion of young people do they represent? Are the groups stable over time?
- What are the important factors for predicting whether someone is likely to be disengaged?
- What factors are important for helping their engagement?

For further information on the full programme of research from the DCSF visit the [DCSF website](#).

## Student Finance: Practitioners website



News stories

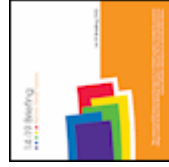
Regularly updated

Comprehensive information source

[www.practitioners.studentfinanceengland.co.uk](http://www.practitioners.studentfinanceengland.co.uk)

For anyone providing IAG to students and sponsors

**Useful publications available to order**  
<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/>



**14-19 briefing session DVD**  
**Ref: DCSF-011106-2009**

This interactive DVD shows recent footage of a 14-19 Briefing and is intended for schools and colleges that were unable to attend the Briefings held earlier in the year. The film also provides links to sources of further information on elements of the reform.



**Clever Click Safe: The first UK child internet safety strategy**  
**Ref: DCSF-011100-2009**

This strategy sets out what the UK Council for Child Internet Safety have done so far to keep children safe online; their commitments to parents, children and young people and the things they are planning to do to make them happen; and how you will know whether they are succeeding in making children and young people safer.



**Real Meals: Simple cooking that tastes great (V2)**  
**Ref: DCSF-01137-2009**

More than half a million copies of the original Real Meals cookbook have already been sent to schools and more than a year on it is still as popular as ever with this second edition now including an even wider range of 32 recipes. Please note that secondary schools are allowed to order up to 300 free copies for their Year 7 pupils only. Schools with larger cohorts may still order and receive enough free copies for their Year 7 students, but the order will need to be approved by the DCSF before processing. Other users can order priced copies at £7.99 each.

SEN NEW



**Guidance on looked after children with special education needs placed out of authority**  
**Ref: DCSF-00060-2010**

This guidance aims to outline local authorities responsibilities for meeting the special educational needs of looked after children who are placed out-of-authority, and explains how these responsibilities operate.



**Quality, Choice and Aspiration. A strategy for young people's information, advice and guidance**  
**Ref: DCSF-00977-2009**

This strategy sets out the steps the Government is taking to ensure that every young person, wherever they live and whatever their talents, receives excellent information, advice and guidance.

**Conferences and training**

**February 2010**

**14-19 Reform Conference.**

Capita's 10th Bi-Annual [14-19 Reform Conference](#) taking place in Manchester on **Thursday 25th February 2010**, provides guidance and best practice on how young people can be equipped with the core skills and qualifications needed for fruitful and sustained long term employment. This event will showcase expert speakers and case studies discussing a variety of key issues including; an overview of the six year Nuffield Review on 14-19 Reform; current and future national policy, strategy and the curriculum framework; the importance of staff training and development; transfer of 16-19 commissioning duties to local authorities; and effective employer engagement.

**March 2010**

**The National Career Guidance Show.**

The National Careers Guidance show is a new event taking place at the Emirates Stadium, London on the **3rd and 4th March 2010**. It aims to provide career professionals with the latest up-to-date information about career routes and opportunities. Further information and to book your place at this free event is available [online](#).

**Changing Careers Education: Information, Advice and Guidance that Motivates All Young People.**

Taking place in Central London on the **17th March 2010**, this Westminster Briefing from The House Magazine will provide delegates with the opportunity to gain a complete understanding of the new IAG Strategy, in addition to discussing how future policy is likely to change to deal with the Raised Participation Age. Delegates will also have the opportunity to investigate specific case studies and share good practice examples in improving IAG in schools and online. The NCN has secured a 25% discount for our contacts to attend this event. To ensure you receive your discount please use the [NCN booking form](#). For further details regarding the event please visit the [Westminster Briefing](#) website.

**Information, Advice and Guidance for young people.**

Taking place on **Tuesday 23rd March 2010** in London, this conference will bring together policy and decision makers and practitioners to examine the new funding arrangements and obligations, the challenges in local communities and to hear how information, advice and guidance has a central role in building skills, informing parents and tackling the effects of the economic downturn. Registration is now open for the event and there is a 15% discount available for NCN members.

[Registration is available online](#). Please quote NCNSH261 in the comments section of your online registration form to ensure you receive your 15% discount. For further information please contact Suzannah Povey on telephone 020 7324 4361, or e-mail [Suzannah.Povey](#) at Neil Stewart Associates.

**Resource Catalogue**

We will shortly be producing a resource catalogue to support flexible working and to enable colleagues to see the resources that are readily available online and from Thompson House. It will contain pictures and a brief explanation of the target audience for each resource, and will be continually updated to reflect local and national changes to promotional materials. If you do not wish to be on the email distribution for this resource please let me know. Equally, if you have colleagues that might find it useful please ask them to email me and I will ensure they are added.

## Apprenticeship Grant for Employers of 16 and 17 year olds



A new grant is offering employers an easy way to take on young apprentices. Over the next ten weeks the National Apprenticeship Service will provide up to 5,000 Apprenticeship Grants for Employers of 16 and 17 year olds (AGE 16 and 17). The grant of £2,500 is to enable employers to offer 5,000 new Apprenticeship places and take on an unemployed 16 or 17 year old apprentice immediately. The £2,500 grant is in addition to the costs of training which are already met by the National Apprenticeship Service. Last year, despite tough labour market conditions, over 70,000 16 and 17 year olds started an Apprenticeship. Despite this there are still many more young people who want to learn whilst they are in work and we are determined to make sure that the opportunities are there for them to do so.

NAS particularly want to support small and medium sized employers who are interested in employing an apprentice for this first time, or who want to employ an additional apprentice over their traditional level of recruitment. In exceptional circumstances, where they can demonstrate that they are overtraining to support small employers in their supply chain or the wider sector, larger employers could be supported. Our aim is to support employers to offer new and additional places in support of young people. Therefore we are targeting those employers who would not otherwise have been in a position to recruit an apprentice at this point in time or who are able to offer more Apprenticeship places than they would otherwise have done.

**'AGE 16 and 17' is available now. It is a short-term, time-limited, measure and is available immediately for employers who are able to offer a job opportunity to a young person. The AGE 16 and 17 grant is only available until the end of March.**

All training providers are able to offer this incentive to employers. Providers are being encouraged to identify employers they have worked with – or previously contacted – who might benefit from this additional support.

To apply for AGE 16 and 17 call the National Apprenticeship Service on **08000 150**

## Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving full employment

### Youth unemployment.

The Department for Work and Pensions has launched a new White Paper called [Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment](#). As part of measures set out on the paper, the Government is to tackle youth unemployment by creating 100,000 work and training opportunities to under 25s who have been unemployed for six months or more. The proposals also set out plans to make it compulsory for unemployed young people to accept an offer of employment, training or work experience before they reach ten months unemployed.

### Information and Opportunities for Young People

**One Big Idea Competition.** The 'One Big Idea' competition challenges young people to develop a new product for the brand 'One'. Young people have until the 12th February 2010 to design a product that will be sold in selected Co-op shops in the UK. Like 'One Water', the idea for the product must be directly related to the issue that needs addressing. The competition will focus on the 3Ps – People, Planet and Profit, and will provide a practical opportunity to be engaged in social enterprise activity. To register and for further information visit the [One Big Idea](#) website.

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## Raising the participation age: supporting local areas to deliver

Ref: DCSF-01134-2009

This publication brings together key commitments from recent Departmental reports and strategies, and signals the next steps required in preparing for successful delivery of full participation.

SEN



## Lamb Enquiry: Special education needs and parental confidence

Ref: DCSF-01143-2009

This report is the final report of the Lamb Inquiry. It sets out the final recommendations along with all the earlier recommendations from previous interim reports and the exchanges of letters with the Secretary of State.

## Aim Higher

Your local Aim Higher site [www.aimhighersite.ac.uk](http://www.aimhighersite.ac.uk) is divided into a practitioners site and a student site. The practitioners site includes a calendar of events, an activities section, a learning mentor forum, resources and details on monitoring and evaluation. The student site includes games, quizzes and activities and covers topics such as where studying can lead you, finance, accommodation and student support.

**National site for additional resources:** [www.aimhigher.ac.uk/practitioner](http://www.aimhigher.ac.uk/practitioner)



## Don't stop doing what you love: information about higher education

Guidance and advice for young people preparing for GCSEs or a Diploma. Aims to encourage them to start thinking about the opportunities they could benefit from if they choose to go into higher education. Audio version also available (URN 09/1335).

Available to [download and order from BIS](#)

## Your future, your choice: post-16 guide to higher education

Aimed at sixth form students at school or college, outlining the opportunities that they could benefit from if they choose to go into higher education. Audio version (09/1334) also available.

Available to [download or order from BIS](#)

## Help your child into higher education: parents' guide to higher education

Aimed at parents about the benefits of higher education. Outlines how their child can to continue their studies and open the door to a wide range of jobs and opportunities, gaining the skills and knowledge that many employers want. Audio version (URN 09/1336) also available.

Available to [download and order from BIS](#)

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