

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 19 SEPTEMBER 2000

RAISING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SUMMER SCHOOLS IN EAST AYRSHIRE

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Education Committee of the success of the Summer School Programme in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Raising educational achievement is one of the four main areas for continued development within the strategic plan for the Education Department. For the past two years a comprehensive programme of educational opportunities has been offered to students during the Summer holiday period.
- 2.2** In continuance of this successful programme Head Teachers were invited by the Director to provide programmes of Study Support for students to raise achievement in all sectors.

3. SUMMER SCHOOL PROVISION

- 3.1** Summer school provision is a programme of study support, cultural and recreational activities provided in addition to the learning and teaching that takes place during term time. It is designed to provide added impetus to raising educational attainment, improve motivation and build self-esteem.
- 3.2** All schools in East Ayrshire provide on going study support through the school year. In addition some schools decided to allocate study support resources and Excellence Fund resources to Summer school provision.
- 3.3** Courses this summer have been organised by Special Schools and Crosshouse Communications Centre, who have run Summer Support Schemes in music, art, computing, games and outdoor education for over 40 pupils during the 6 week summer break.
- 3.4** Summer schools in primary choral, dance, vocal, instrumental music, jazz, art and design and video media have been centrally organised and involved in excess of 430 pupils from the Primary and Secondary sectors. These have culminated in final day performances open to parents and friends, and have been well attended and received.

- 3.5** A Gaelic summer school based in Onthank Primary School provided a 10 day programme of sport, arts, leisure and visits, all through the medium of Gaelic.
- 3.6** Drongan Primary School's "Alternatives to Drugs" centred on football, in which over 200 pupils from P1 to P7 engaged in sport, dancing, craft skills and healthy eating. The co-operation of local, national and international clubs, and local businesses and agencies, was a special feature of this successful scheme.
- 3.7** Grange Academy (Education Action Plan) Summer School provided learning and team-building activities for 80 pupils mostly from Bellfield and Shortlees, but also included pupils from other cluster primaries. Programmes in art, technology, science, enterprise and video presentation were enthusiastically attended. Pupils and staff used the positive skills of Circle Time throughout the 3 day programme.
- 3.8** St. Joseph's Academy Summer School for junior and senior school pupils gave masterclass tuition to seniors in Mathematics and English, and team-building, adventure play and visits for the junior pupils.
- 3.9** A Philosophy Summer School in Kilmarnock Football Club featured junior and senior pupils from Auchinleck and Grange Academies video-linking with an international conference in Glasgow University.
- 3.10** Netherthird Primary provided a Shipmates Club throughout the summer to encourage pupils and parents to enjoy holiday reading.
- 3.11** Strathclyde University Summer Academy offered 80 places this year to S3 pupils from all secondaries for 10 days, an expansion to last year's programme of drama, literacy, music, science, enterprise and drama.
- 3.12** Community Education provided a comprehensive programme of events for all ages, and included outreach youth work, parenting skills, health-related workshops, study skills and community organisation skills.

4. PUPIL PARTICIPATION IN SUMMER SCHOOLS

- 4.1** Summer school participation by pupils is entirely voluntary. Pupils' initial attendance and stay-on rates are one method of measuring the success of the various programmes offered. Many schools identified pupil needs by consulting them before deciding which activities to offer, and in such cases pupil involvement was well targeted at specific areas of proven interest. Staff, pupils and parents were unstinting in their praise of the work and organisation put in to provide the activities, and were quick to recognise East Ayrshire's contribution in terms of finance and personnel.

5. GROWTH IN SUMMER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

5.1 In 1998, the Special Schools Summer Support Scheme involved 30 pupils throughout the holiday period from 2 schools. In 1999, an expanded programme of Summer Schools had 2 special school schemes, 7 Arts based programmes and 3 secondary school projects. This greatly increased access to holiday provision, including the launch of the Summer Academy at Strathclyde, based at Jordanhill Campus, for 20 pupils from Cumnock Academy. Taking into account the Community Education programmes, over 5000 pupils participated. This year saw a further expansion of Summer Schools, involving every special school, 5 specific primary schools projects in reading, choir, New Community School, Gaelic and Alternatives to Drugs. The secondary programme offered projects in primary/secondary liaison, 2 dance schools, 6 music schools, Media, Art & Design and Philosophy, making 23 distinct schemes for East Ayrshire pupils. The Summer Academy at Strathclyde this year offered places for 80 pupils from all secondary schools. The numbers of schools, pupils and projects have risen steadily, with overall figures for participation this year in excess of 7000.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 All schools received funding from the Excellence Fund Study Support, and contributions were received from other agencies, the GOALS project, public, private and voluntary organisations, and local and national businesses.

7. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that members of the Education Committee note the contents of the paper.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services

DF/NG
4 September 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Raising Educational Achievement - Summer Schools in East Ayrshire
2 September 1999. Education Committee Report by Director of Education.
2. Study Support in Scottish Schools: John McBeath, Quality in Education Centre.
3. Study Support (Out of Hours Learning) The Code of Practice - The Prince's
Trust 1997.

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools,
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IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: GRAHAM SHORT, HEAD OF SCHOOLS

AGENDA