

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE -18 SEPTEMBER 2001

RAISING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT – SUMMER SCHOOLS IN EAST AYRSHIRE 2001

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 Summer Schools and Summer Activities 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 three 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, the Director invited Head Teachers to provide programmes of Study Support and activities 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 allocate study support and Excellence Fund resources to Summer School provision. Some schools have used New Opportunities Fund and others have accessed various statutory and voluntary bodies to help staff their activities.
- 3.3 All Special School schemes, at Hillside, Woodstock and Crosshouse Communication Centre have been well attended and fully staffed, with all planned activities proceeding smoothly. They have catered for over 50 children with special needs throughout the summer holiday period, and have delivered a wide-ranging programme of indoor and outdoor activities. Park School's 3-day residential stay on Arran took place during the week beginning Monday 13 August, catering for 22 pupils aged 13 to 17 years, and focused on environmental studies and outdoor pursuits.

- 3.4** Primary school provision has included a 4-day school at Littlemill Primary, and a weeklong school at Drongan Primary. Hillhead New Community School provided a comprehensive 6-week programme, which included family days, indoor and outdoor activities, and considerable input from Support to Communities.
- 3.5** Other schools included a Gaelic Summer School at Onthank Primary, and Grange Academy's 3-day summer school for 115 primary children from the Education Action Plan schools. The extensive arts programme included a primary school choral singing summer school, and several mixed primary and secondary schools.
- 3.6** Secondary provision included the Summer Academy at Strathclyde, funding for which came through Excellence Fund, GOALS (Greater Opportunity of Access and Learning with Schools) and private sponsorship. Individual summer schools have also taken place at St. Joseph's and Stewarton Academies.
- 3.7** Strategic Arts Summer Schools, funded through support received from the New Opportunities Fund, catered for primary and secondary pupils, and included schools in dance/theatre, brass, strings, jazz, piping, woodwind, vocal, primary music, art and design and computer graphics. Communities have been quick to praise the continuing support given to these initiatives by East Ayrshire Council.
- 3.8** An integral part of the award received from the New Opportunities Fund was to develop arts summer activities in the Doon Valley. As a result, this year saw the successful inclusion of the Dalmellington Arts Summerfest.
- 3.9** The Arts programme has this year attracted interest from Learning & Teaching Scotland and the Scottish Council for Research in Education.
- 3.10** Support to Communities has again produced a wide variety of programmes for all ages, including computing, world wide web, outreach youth work, parenting 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 very positive 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 schools. The launch of Summer Academy at Strathclyde, based at Jordanhill Campus catered for 20 pupils from Cumnock Academy. Taking into account the Community Education programmes, over 5000 pupils participated. The year 2000 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 dance, music, Media, Art and Design, and Philosophy, making 23 distinct schemes for East Ayrshire pupils.
- 5.2** This year the Summer Academy at Strathclyde offered places for 80 pupils from all Secondary Schools. In all, 25 separate Summer Schools serving all sectors have provided places for over 1000 East Ayrshire pupils, with a comprehensive programme lasting from 25 June until 17 August. When Support to Communities programme is included, a further 36 separate courses for pupils, parents and communities can be added.

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. The New Opportunities Fund has supported the Strategic Arts programme in Music, Drama, Art and Design, and Computer Graphics.

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 and Social Services

DF/MMcK

18 September 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Raising Educational Achievement - Summer Schools in East Ayrshire 14 September 2000 - 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, Tel: (01563) 576118 or Kenneth McKinlay, Principal, Quality Development, Tel: (01563) 555650.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: GRAHAM SHORT, HEAD OF SCHOOLS

AGENDA