

CCMS Newsletter


December 2007



Merry Christmas



Donal Flanagan, Chief Executive of CCMS



As the Chief Executive of CCMS, I receive many invitations to attend Christmas nativity plays and school celebrations throughout December. For some people the prospect of sitting through another school nativity play might seem pretty daunting and repetitious. However it is something which I look forward to each year.

What I have found is that with each nativity play I attend, I witness the joy, fun and excitement of the children and young people, the pride of parents and families watching and the dedication of the teaching staff.

It is on these occasions that I am reminded of the strong sense of community and family which is manifest in our Catholic Maintained schools sector. This sense of community and family is premised on the strong ethos and values of Catholic Education, and also on the commitment and dedication which is shown by our principals and teachers.

As we approach the holy season of Christmas we reflect on the year past. We congratulate our schools for their continuing success and their commitment to the pastoral care and well being of each pupil. We remember those members of staff and pupils who passed away during the year.

We also look forward to the future with hope and optimism and that the sense of community and the ethos and values of Catholic education which binds us all will grow from strength to strength.

Lastly on behalf of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools can I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas.

www.onlineccms.com

Happy New Year

Professional Assessor Workshops

CCMS will be running workshops for all professional assessors, who are involved in the recruitment and selection of principal/vice principal posts and appointments in January 2008.

The objective of the workshops will be to review and consider the current approach to the assessment of catholic ethos and vision within the recruitment process for Principal and Vice-Principal appointments;

The management and promotion of the vision for catholic education is an important strategic issue for schools, and even more so in this period of unprecedented change.

These workshops, will be facilitated by CCMS officers and members from the Consultative Group for Catholic Education (CGCE).

It is intended to provide a total of 6 workshops across the various diocesan areas, and all professional assessors have now been advised of these events.

Catholic Education Week Announced

Next year's Catholic Education Week will flow from Education in Faith Sunday. The dates are:

Education in Faith Sunday:
26th/ 27th January 2008

Catholic Education Week:
28th January – 3rd February 2008

CGCE will produce resource materials for schools that will be available online from their website www.catholiceducation-ni.com

All schools will be emailed about these arrangements. They will also be invited to contribute ideas and suggestions for Catholic education week through the website.

A CD Rom prayer service will be available for schools to use as part of their celebrations for Catholic Education Week. There will be a version for primary and post-primary schools.

Welcome Packs for ethnic families and schools

In June 2007 CCMS launched its Welcome Pack for ethnic minority parents and pupils in four key languages - Portuguese, Talog (Philippines), Lithuanian and Polish.

The packs were designed to help parents understand the quality of the education that their children would receive from Catholic schools through a series of useful and practical leaflets and forms. The Welcome Pack was well received by many and has been showcased as a template of best practice.

As principals and teachers you will understand how important it is to communicate and make that connection with both pupils and their parents. The Welcome Pack can help you bridge that information and communication barrier.

If you have open days, enrolment evenings or parent/teacher meetings planned for 2008, then the CCMS Welcome Pack is the resource you need to help you.

Why not contact us to request a pack - 028 9042 6972

Christmas Quiz?

1. Name the two films in which Bing Crosby sung 'White Christmas'?
2. How many Christmas number ones has Cliff Richard had?
3. How many pipers piping are there in the song the 12 days of Christmas?
4. Which modern Christmas song contains the lyric - "The boys of the NYPD choir were singing Galway Bay"?
5. What was Scrooge's first name?

New leaflet on bullying produced

A new leaflet has been produced for parents and schools about dealing with bullying.

The **Northern Ireland Anti Bullying Forum (NIABF)** have produced the leaflet for parents/carers to help parents understand how to address any concerns they may have in contacting schools to report bullying.

You can download the leaflet and access more information from -

www.savethechildren.org.uk/niabf

Christmas Quiz Answers?

- 1) White Christmas & Holiday Inn
- 2) 3
- 3) 11
- 4) Fairytale of New York
- 5) Ebenezer