

teaching **scotland**

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THE VOICE OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION

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is unveiled

Chartered teacher

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ADVOCATING EDUCATION

Elish Angiolini signs up
for the National Lecture

gtc
SCOTLAND

APPLICATIONS FOR ACCREDITATION ROUTE FOR CHARTERED TEACHER SET TO CLOSE

In line with the original Chartered Teacher Programme arrangements, the current Accreditation Route will close to new applicants from 31 August 2008. Any teacher intending to follow the current Accreditation Route must therefore embark on it before that date.

VALUABLE SUPPORT FOR PROBATIONERS

At the latest six-monthly Teacher Induction Scheme (TIS) seminar run by GTC Scotland at Clerwood House, the main areas focused on included: supporting struggling probationers, online profiles and the ongoing development of the TIS.

TIS managers from all 32 authorities were invited to this much-valued seminar, which provided an opportunity for good practice to be shared and to consider enhancements to arrangements for probationer teachers.

After a pilot year, we shall be implementing a major new development during the 2008/09 session in the way probationers, head teachers and probation supporters manage the documentation associated with probation.

More details about our new online profile will be provided in the next issue.

Ron Clarke

Time to celebrate



WHEN YOU ENTER SCHOOL TOMORROW, TRY TO SEE IT AS I DO – WITH AN EXTERNAL EYE. YOU ARE PRIVILEGED TO BE AT THE GATES OF A NEW DAWN. NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THAT

Schools are the most important places in our land... and teachers? That's easy. A great teacher has an impact on our world rarely measured or acknowledged. Schools and teachers are the wellspring of our nation's future.

How easy, as a teacher, to forget you spend your days in a veritable goldmine of energy and ideas. Performance targets and daily discipline challenges can so easily obscure that. As a visitor to schools, I only see creativity, energy and talent and as a businessman, I always rush back to my office armed with fresh perspectives.

Businesses and public services take heed. The best way to tool up for the future is to draw on the ideas of young people. How many poor decisions may have been reversed if we had asked the consumers, voters, parents, business leaders and employees of the future?

When you enter school tomorrow, try to see it as I do – with an external eye. You are privileged to be at the gates of a new dawn. Never lose sight of that. See your pupils in a fresh light – perhaps that distracted nuisance has qualities neither you or he/she is aware of. Let's not allow that potential to slip from view.

A financially pressed mother told me of a

solution her six-year old daughter came up with. "Mum," she said, "Do you know you can sponsor a dog for £1 a week? If we sponsor lots, we'll make loads of money."

If it were legal, I would employ six, eight, 12 and 15 year olds – because they bring a different kind of logic and a joyful creativity to the world. They see clarity where we are blind, take risks where we fear and speak with honesty when we are tongue-tied. These qualities are diamond jewels for those who deem to shape the future – ignore them at our peril.

Yet read the papers and you would think young people wear horns. They create a mood music that thwarts even the most foolishly optimistic spirit. Lazy and clichéd descriptions and an obsession with a demonised youth culture serve us ill. Young Scots hate this and feel put upon.

It's time for schools to take action. Showcase what you do, bring the press in and give us all a taste of the energy and ideas that abound. Young achievers and great teachers are great role models – we should celebrate them.

Mike Stevenson (pictured) is managing director of Design Links, a design and communications agency



Irene Hogg

It was with great sadness that we learned at the end of March of the death of Irene Hogg, elected primary head teacher member of Council since November 2005. Irene was the much respected head teacher of Glendinning Terrace Primary School in Galashiels.

On Council, she served on the Education Committee and Investigating Sub-Committee. We extend our condolences to her family, friends, colleagues and pupils.

Moving? Tell GTCS

Through failure to take some simple steps, teachers could find themselves being removed from the Register.

You can easily avoid this by keeping GTCS updated when you change your address. It is your responsibility to maintain effective registration and your updated address is a key requirement.