

Investors in Pupils Newsletter

Spring Term 2015



Welcome back

We hope you had a restful Christmas break, and wish you a happy and successful New Year!

Introducing our new website...ta dah!

The new look website went live in September 2014, is more user friendly and continues to improve. Schools have told us that it is now easier to login and use the website and the number of resources available grows each day.

The new website includes:

- Updated resources and good practice areas for primary, secondary and special schools
- Information about open events around the country
- Assessment information

If you haven't already why not 'register your school' to create your own login account.



Introducing our new logo...

We have refreshed the Investors in Pupils brand with a new logo and colours for the new website. Over the next term we will be re-branding all key Investors in Pupils documentation and working towards a full phase out of the old logo by the end of the summer term 2015.

You can download the working towards logo from the assessment information pages. There is no requirement for schools to replace old logos where they are already on display.



Open events – don't miss out on new dates.

There have been a number of open events in Newport, Kirklees, Leeds, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Hertfordshire this year with still more planned for Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford, Harrow, Northern Ireland and Manchester. These events are popular and book up fast. Schools that attend the events tell us that it's a good way to find out new ideas and see how Investors in Pupils can work in practice. Further details are available below or look out for new dates on our website if you are interested in joining us. If you are involved with a group of schools that would like to organise something similar, please get in touch.

95% of schools have a school council, but are they effective?

The latest DfE guidance 'Promoting fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools states:

“ensure that all pupils with the school have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils.”

The Investors in Pupils team will be delivering effective schools council training in Leeds in February, this course is open to school staff with a responsibility for working with school councils. The cost is £195 / delegate to schools outside Leeds. For further information or to book a place please see details below. If you are interested in arranging similar training for a group of schools please contact to discuss further.

Investors in Pupils in the press

Investors in Pupils is often in the press, as schools share their successes with their local community. If you would like to share your school's good news about the Investors in Pupils award, please be in touch and we can provide a press release for you to use. Pupils from an Investors in Pupils school in South Wales wrote to US President Barack Obama and Prime minister David Cameron asking them to visit their school – and they did!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-29071630>

Remember the sky is the limit!



Headteacher consultation | Reaccreditation pathways

Investors in Pupils is celebrating its' 15 year this year and an increasing number of schools have successfully achieved the award four times. The award was originally written for schools by Cathlene Paul, headteacher, of a Leeds school. During the summer term last year a group of representative headteachers and senior leaders from a cross-section of schools across West Yorkshire met to discuss the evolution of reaccreditation which will be piloted with a number of schools during spring and summer terms 2015. The main change is that the assessment visit will include a pupil presentation followed by a Q&A session. The pilot will be evaluated before it is fully launched during Autumn term 2015. If you are due for reaccreditation during spring and summer term and are interested in taking part in the pilot, please contact us via the details below.

School cluster pilot

A pilot group of primary and secondary schools, led by a trained school based assessor, is also successfully underway with the group having met twice last term. The aim of the pilot is to determine how a cluster of schools, with an identified lead school, might work together towards Investors in Pupils accreditation. The schools will work over the course of an academic year through networking, twilight sessions and peer support as they progress towards accreditation. The pilot will be evaluated and results will be available during late summer term 2015.

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day 2014

In our last newsletter we highlighted last year's Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day that took place on Friday 21 November (also Universal Children's Day). Ellie, Elizabeth and Abigail from Middleton St Mary's C of E primary school, Leeds, explained how the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day is run in their school; how it gives them a voice and the opportunity to experience the world of work, to teachers planning to do the same in theirs. This has been turned into a case study available to download; http://www.investorsinpupils.org.uk/case_studies

Why isn't my teacher in school today?

Do you explain to your class when and why you might not be in class? Do you share what you have learnt with them back in the classroom? Children are curious and sharing with them that we can learn at any age helps promote aspiration and achieve new goals. For Investors in Pupils these conversations complement the work around understanding staff roles and responsibilities, maybe your school council have interviewed staff and displayed their findings on a noticeboard – do they ask what they had to do to get the job? Do you have 'world of work days' inviting local businesses and parents to share information about their jobs, and what they had to do to get them?



St Paul's JHS, Lurgan

Fionnuala McCann, Investors in Pupils Coordinator at St Paul's JHS in Northern Ireland has also written a case study highlighting how Investors in Pupils has made a difference in their school. The rationale for introducing the Investors in Pupils award was taken following an ETI (Education and Training Inspectorate) report in which the school's pastoral care was evaluated as 'satisfactory.' In order to improve on this the school identified the need to increase pupil voice and participation within the school. The 5 key areas within Investors in Pupils provided a medium for pupil voice and participation to be increased. A form teacher programme was developed which addressed all 14 areas of Investors in Pupils throughout the school year. Accelerated learning mornings were also organised to allow classes time to complete anti-bullying presentations/induction booklets etc. It was the strong focus and commitment to the Investors in Pupils Award and the 5 key areas which resulted in a greater collaboration between pastoral and curricular teams. As a result the ETI report at the end of 2013 highlighted that "the quality of the arrangements for pastoral care is now very good" For the full case study please go to http://www.investorsinpupils.org.uk/case_studies

Investors in Pupils in Nottinghamshire Update

Schools throughout all seven districts of Nottinghamshire are continuing to show a major interest in working towards, and completing, an Investors in Pupils Assessment and it is pleasing to note that over the last two terms we have had two 'firsts'. The first of our trail blazers was St. Giles Special School, Retford when it became the first Nottinghamshire Special School to achieve the award. Then earlier this autumn term Tuxford Academy became the first secondary school in the county to successfully gain the award. Tuxford Academy also has partner secondary schools from other areas of the county that are also working towards the award. Nottinghamshire can now truly say that it has successful Investors in Pupils schools from each of infant, junior, primary, special and secondary phases of education. 2014 has also seen the first trench of schools looking to continue their development in Investors in Pupils ethos through seeking reassessment after their first three years with the award.

Training Opportunities...

Developing Effective School Councils

Tuesday 2 February

9:15am - 3:30pm

Venue: North East Learning Centre, Leeds

Lots of schools now have a school council but are they always effective? This course provides a range of ideas and techniques to ensure that your school council really makes a difference to your school community. Suitable for staff from primary, secondary and special school settings, delegates will benefit from the experience of both pupils and senior leaders from primary and secondary schools.

Investors in Pupils Open Event – Thomas Gray Primary, Sefton, Liverpool

Thursday 19 March

1.30pm - 3:30pm

Venue: Thomas Gray Primary School, Sefton, Liverpool

An opportunity to see, hear and experience a primary school's engagement with Investors in Pupils, including a learning walk and presentations from staff and pupils and the central Investors in Pupils team.

By the end of the event delegates will have an understanding of:

- how staff have introduced and developed 'Investors in Pupils', ensuring consistent provision
- how pupils are engaged and have a voice
- the measurable impact 'Investors in Pupils' can have on the whole school community, and
- how to prepare for an assessment and what to expect from the assessment day visit

Investors in Pupils Open Event – Ireland Wood Primary, Leeds

Thursday 26 March

9.30am - 11:30am

Venue: Ireland Wood Primary School

An opportunity to see, hear and experience a primary school's engagement with Investors in Pupils, including a learning walk and presentations from staff and pupils and the central Investors in Pupils team.

By the end of the event delegates will have an understanding of:

- how staff have introduced and developed 'Investors in Pupils', ensuring consistent provision
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- the measurable impact 'Investors in Pupils' can have on the whole school community, and
- how to prepare for an assessment and what to expect from the assessment day visit

Investors in Pupils Open Event – Foxhill Primary School, Queensbury

Wednesday 28 January 2015

9.30am – 12.00pm

Venue: Foxhill Primary School, Bradford

An opportunity to see, hear and experience a primary school's engagement with Investors in Pupils, including a



learning walk and presentations from staff and pupils.

The open event will include the following topics:-

- Why introduce Investors in Pupils
- Tour of the School
- Pupil Voice/School Council
- Financial capability
- Behaviour management using the Kodaly music programme
- Preparing for assessment

Investors in Pupils Open Event – Newton Farm Nursery, Infant and Junior School, Harrow

Thursday 5 March	1.30pm - 3:30pm	Venue Newton Farm Nursery, Infant and Junior School, Harrow
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Involving Pupils in School Management Takeover Day?

24/03/2015	9:30am - 3:30pm	Venue- Hillside, Leeds LS11 8ND
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To gain a clear understanding of how to involve pupils in aspects of school management. This course is suitable for staff from primary, secondary and special school settings.

Finance Education

11/06/2015	9:30am - 3:30pm	Venue- North East Learning Centre, Leeds
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This event is for colleagues who would like to bring financial education to the classroom. It will give the opportunity to look at practical resources and curriculum planning tools that will help to develop financially literate young people. This course is offered to primary and secondary staff.

For further information including prices and booking please go to http://www.schoolwellbeing.co.uk/training_courses

Got something to share?

Please get in touch with us; we would like to include articles from schools to share in future publications

Other news...

School Food Ambassadors

School Food Ambassadors (SFA) involves a small group of pupils who are elected to monitor school food. They give feedback from their peers alongside evidence from monitoring to the school cook and senior leadership to influence change. It is all about pupils taking the lead for their own school food provision to improve its quality, increase uptake and enhance their overall dining experience beyond lunch times. SFA gives pupils a voice, ultimately giving them what they care about, tasty school meals! The programme has been in place in Leeds since 2011 and has gone from strength to strength. The guidance and toolkit is currently undergoing a transformation and will be launched in early 2015. The new model is endorsed and supported by Leeds Youth Council.



"We, the Leeds Youth Council, fully endorse the School Food Ambassadors plans to create a student led group who evaluate school dinners in their school. It's the schools job to provide quality food to pupils, we hear that some teachers said they wouldn't eat the food provided for pupils. This is an issue so the SFA's programme would change this."

To find out more please email Siobhan.o'mahony@leeds.gov.uk.

Healthy Schools | School Health Check

You can now revalidate your Healthy Schools status via the online toolkit: www.healthyschools.org.uk.

The School Health Check (previously Whole School Review/Annual Review) is an improved, simplified and Ofsted-ready version of National Healthy Schools Status. Schools review their provision for health and wellbeing across 4 areas: PSHE, Healthy Eating, Physical Activity and EWMH. The self-evaluation tool draws on all available Ofsted guidance, and uses judgement descriptors. Schools can identify their strengths, whilst any areas for development can be copy/pasted quickly into a simple online action plan. Subscription to the website costs £225, for more information email: schoolwellbeing@leeds.gov.uk



Peer Tutors take the lead in demonstrating that Reading Matters.

Peer mentoring is a great way of improving skills (both for the mentor and mentee), providing students with roles that show responsibility and initiative as well as increasing pupil participation and making a positive impact on the whole school community. Reading Matters, a Bradford-based literacy charity, offers peer tutor



training to schools nationwide that want to harness the potential of older students as role models who can pass on literacy skills, confidence and a love of reading to those that need some 1:1 intervention. Their 'Reading Leaders' programme is available in both primary and secondary schools with the opportunity to gain a level 2 accreditation for students who are 14 years or older; recognition of their valuable work as volunteers and an asset to any CV or personal statement.

Please go to www.readingmatters.org.uk to find out more about the full range of literacy support services Reading Matters provide.

"The Reading Matters programme has made massive improvements to our students' reading levels".

School Intervention Manager