

Equalities Newsletter 2020-21 Term 2

ERC News

- This term's Equalities Coordinators network meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday 9 March at 9.30am. The Parent Equalities Forum will now take place on 16 March at 7pm.
- The council has developed a new template for Equality and Fairness Impact Assessments. This has been uploaded to the Equalities Coordinators Teams page. ERC training on carrying out an equality impact assessment will be offered later in the spring. In the meantime if you are developing a new policy and would like any guidance on carrying out an impact assessment, please contact Marilyn Brennan marilyn.brennan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk.

Education Scotland

- Education Scotland have published a report on the impact of the pandemic on children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The '*Equity Audit*' report can be accessed [here](#). A sketch note included on page 7 provides a summary of key findings that may be useful in professional dialogue with staff.

Money Advice and Rights Team

- MART have prepared a short presentation with a voice-over about the Parental Employment Support (PES) fund, as well as other welfare advice they can offer families (see attached). Parents who are currently furloughed are eligible for PES. MART would particularly encourage parents who are currently on furlough who are worried their employment may come to an end, to get in touch as soon as possible. The presentation is available on the Equalities Coordinators Teams page and has also been shared with Parent Council chairs.

Child Poverty Action Group

- CPAG have published several recent blogs on the impact of the pandemic on families living with poverty which may be of interest to staff as professional reading: <https://cpag.org.uk/news-blogs/news-listing/type/blog>

LGBT+ History Month/New Helpline

- Our local LGBT+ Youth Group are launching a new helpline on 22 February as part of LGBT+ History Month. The helpline will be promoted as a Youth Helpline for LGBT+ young people and will run as a text service to offer information and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people, those questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and their families, friends and supporters. A poster to publicise the helpline has been shared with schools and is also available on the Teams page.

Stonewall Scotland

- Stonewall Scotland have a range of online resources for LGBT History Month available online [here](#). This year's resources have a focus on the lives and work of courageous LGBT women and include lesson packs and home learning packs for all levels and sectors.
- East Renfrewshire continues to be a Stonewall Scotland Champions member. If you require more specific advice on supporting LGBT children or young people in your school please get in touch and we can link you directly with an adviser at Stonewall.
- Stonewall's next e-learning module 'Supporting LGBT Children and Young People' will become available from the end of February. As Champions members, East Renfrewshire schools can book modules at a discounted rate. Contact marilyn.brennan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk for further information.

National Literacy Trust:

- The National Literacy Trust has recently published two research reports:
'*Seeing yourself in what you read: Diversity and children and young people's reading in 2020*,' a report on NLT research into representation in children's reading materials; and
'*Improving the literacy skills of disadvantaged teenage boys through the use of technology*,' a report exploring the role that digital tools and resources can play in addressing the gender and disadvantage gap in young people's literacy attitudes and outcomes.
Both reports can be accessed [here](#). A range of other research reports on children's literacy can also be found on the NLT website.

Nil by Mouth:

- Anti-sectarian organisation [Nil by Mouth](#) have released a new Scots language story for primary pupils, 'Neeps and Tatties'. The story is aimed at challenging discrimination and prejudice. Further information, a downloadable version of the book and a home learning resource can be accessed [here](#).

Holocaust Memorial Day:

- A recording of the national Holocaust Memorial Day virtual event from 27 January and an accompanying schools information pack are available online via Interfaith Scotland [here](#).
- The organisers of Gathering the Voices Mobile Exhibition have produced an [online video resource](#) telling the life story of Martin Anson, who settled in Glasgow following anti-Jewish persecution in Germany and time in the Dachau concentration camp.