

Forth Valley & West Lothian Education Scotland Team Update

WELCOME!

Welcome to the second update of the FVWL Education Scotland Team Update. In this one we will share with you the work we have been doing alongside our partners across the FVWL Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) highlighting one or two particular actions we have been engaged in and drawing upon our national roles and engagements.

We hope this will help you to find out more about the ES work and the partnership work we're involved in with our colleagues across the FVWL RIC and within local authorities. We would encourage you to contact our staff to find out more about the work and we can also signpost you to other work that is happening in the RIC area.

Our FVWL Education Scotland Team involves staff with a range of expertise, combining their national remit with support for the FVWL RIC.

Our main focus as a Collaborative is to enable people to come together and support improvement in areas such as learning and teaching, developing curriculum and raising attainment in numeracy and literacy. The RIC CLPL programme and the Numeracy & Literacy Academies are designed to support these specific areas, build knowledge, skills and confidence for practitioners, making a difference for children from age 3-18

FVWL Newsletter December 2019

See the FVWL Glow Blog at:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/fvwlrwc/>



THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT: STEM

- What does STEM look like in your school?
- What exciting opportunities can STEM provide?
- Did you know that 2020 is the [Year of Coasts and Waters](#)?

STEM Education Officer [Mairi Thomson](#) says: 'As a primary practitioner I know the challenges of 'fitting everything in' - STEM provides a really rich and exciting context for learning across a number of areas and together with the [refreshed narrative for curriculum](#) there's no better time to grab the opportunity for STEM learning than now!'

Mairi has been combining her national role with work in the Forth Valley & West Lothian RIC to support the development of STEM subjects with learners. Recently, Mairi has been involved in national work related to Rounds [1](#) & [2](#) of the STEM Grants: several FVWL establishments have been able to create bespoke STEM professional learning opportunities and Mairi is delighted to support these. Some examples include Forth Valley College outreach and knowledge exchange sessions; Bo'ness cluster's science work; Stirling's Primary STEM network and Low Port Primary's STEM curriculum development. Mairi has also been linking with STEM leads across the FVWL authorities to explore strategy and opportunities for partnership working. Mairi has also linked with SCDI through [The Digital Extra Fund](#) and is hoping for professional learning for practitioners and exciting 'hands-on' activities for learners. FVWL has some exciting STEM events already in place through STEM@Helix; Codebase; and The Engine Shed and RAISE. These provide rich opportunities to raise the profile of STEM across FVWL. Also, nationally, Mairi is involved in the development of an online STEM directory, online STEM resources, and validating STEM Nation Awards.

Mairi says: 'My work is aligned with the 5 year STEM Education and Training Strategy for Scotland which has 4 themes: excellence; equity; inspiration and; connection. It is relevant for all sectors including ELC, primary, secondary, college and CLD. The strategy aims to support young people, families and practitioners to understand the relevance of STEM for them and how to turn that into high quality learning and teaching experiences, in the hope that STEM becomes part of learners' future career choices'.

If you're thinking about STEM in your learning context, have a look at the STEM self-evaluation framework and then get in touch with Mairi at:

mairi.thomson@educationscotland.gov.scot

Have you used the STEM [self-evaluation and improvement framework](#)?



OTHER NEWS

ATTAINMENT ADVISORS & NIF OFFICER

Jackie Ballantyne, has been focusing on learning, teaching and assessment dialogues in and around WL. Moderation is being discussed and planned for moving forward.

Kit Gilbert has continued to support Falkirk Central Team in their school PEF VSE programme and worked with ES and secondary staff in Clackmannanshire to support data analysis.

Jacqui Ward has been developing Stirling's data culture through PEF Visits, supporting early years pilot on data for improvement and presenting to HTs on data.

Trish Leeson has been working with the Clackmannanshire Improving Outcomes Team to evaluate progress across the SAC workstreams and develop their 2020-21 SAC Proposal.

Tommy Lennox has been analysing National Improvement Framework returns and other local information and data to identify and share good practice.

LITERACY, NUMERACY, HEALTH & WELLBEING

Helen Fairlie continues to work with the Literacy work stream and will be supporting RIC planning for the future Literacy Academy programme.

Maria Docherty has been working with RIC numeracy leads to create and deliver a conceptual understanding in numeracy at first level CLPL programme.

EARLY LEARNING, CHILDCARE & PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Beverley Ferguson has been providing CLPL around Parental Engagement in Falkirk.

CURRICULUM, STEM, CLPL, CLD & DIGITAL LEARNING

Jim Fanning has been investigating approaches to online CLPL across Scotland to inform the FVWL RIC offer.

Stephanie Peat has been leading the delivery of the Teacher Leadership Programme in FVWL and delivering training on facilitation and andragogy.

Fiona Shaw has been working on a [guide](#) for selecting and developing equality & diversity resources and launching a National IGBE pilot course.

Lynne Robertson has been working with West Lothian's Geography network to explore learning and teaching in Geography.

Joe Walker has been working with West Lothian's RMPS Network to explore shared understanding of achieving a CfE level.

THE MONTH AHEAD

In February 2020 other work ES FVWL Team will be carrying out in collaboration with our partners across the RIC will include:

- Working alongside Clackmannanshire's Assessment Coordinator to lead local authority moderation
- Delivering a range of CLPL events around IGBE in Falkirk
- Working with Skills Development Scotland to provide an equalities and employability event in Stirling
- Working with Stirling's Professional Learning Hub on flexible learning pathways in secondaries
- Piloting a social justice champions programme
- Continuing to work alongside FVWL EYR IC and looking forward to the launch of the refresh of *Building the Ambition*.
- Providing specific support to two SAC schools in Falkirk
- Supporting DHT meetings in Falkirk
- Planning for a further RMPS network event in WL: *'Closing the Gap in RME'*
- Working with WL numeracy hub champions to update first level progression pathways and provide a linked support package
- Working with local authorities to develop understanding and processes for evidence collection, data analysis and school improvement planning.
- Providing a paper summarising online CLPL approaches to inform the RIC work stream.
- Supporting delivery of the Evolving Systems Thinking Programme across FVWL

'As part of their learner journey, all children and young people in Scotland are entitled to experience a coherent curriculum from 3 to 18, in order that they have opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to adapt, think critically and flourish in today's world'

See curriculum for excellence refreshed narrative at <https://scotlandscurriculum.scot/>

SEEKING SUPPORT?

If you're looking for some support from the FVWL Education Scotland Team, here's what you do:

- Make contact with your own local authority officers first to discuss your requirements and indicate which of our team members is likely to be the best match for your request.
- At the same time you can contact one of the ES team to discuss your requirements who will be able to advise how to take this forward
- Ask your local authority contact to make a more formal request for support
- Start working together to build improvement