



Newsletter

October 2017

Welcome to the new academic year! With half term on the horizon, the summer holidays now seem like a distant memory. But the end of term is always a busy one in the *engage in their future* calendar and although July's mini heatwave seemed to avoid Newcastle, it didn't stop a successful National Conference and National Awards Ceremony. More on both of these later on ...

We are extremely excited to be adding another event to that calendar as we work with our colleagues at Te Ara School in New Zealand to help them plan and deliver their own conference. Having attended the UK national conference the last couple of years, they have sought our support and involvement in delivering their own event. The hope is that it will be the first step in establishing a network of likeminded schools and individuals that will support each other, provide a collective voice for the children and young people that they work with, and help influence decisions affecting this sector of education. Not only is this a great example of genuine peer support, but it also demonstrates how highly regarded *engage in their future* is. For further details, please read my latest Chair's blog on the website.

The UK National Conference will be setting its own precedence this year as we will be working with SEBDA to deliver a joint event. This represents an exciting collaboration between the two organisations with the conference programme, developed around the theme of "SEMH Theory Into Practice", promising to deliver an excellent balance of inspiration, practical advice and research.

Finally, I would like to extend a personal "thank you" to all those schools that have renewed their membership of *engage in their future*. Membership subscriptions are a cornerstone of the financial stability of the organisation so your prompt action is hugely appreciated. If you've not yet renewed your schools' membership for 2017 / 2018 please do so as soon as possible.



Antonio Munoz-Bailey, Chair, *engage in their future*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Antonio Bailey'.

engage in their future and SEBDA

2018 National Conference

'SEMh Theory Into Practice'

Keynote speakers, workshops, research seminars, networking opportunities.

Confirmed speaker - Lemn Sissay

For more information and to book your place visit

<http://www.engageinsebda.co.uk/>

2017 National Conference

The 2017 *engage in their future* National Conference took place at the Copthorne Hotel in Newcastle upon Tyne on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th July. The theme of **Working With The Whole: Mind, Body and Brain** saw an excellent programme of inspiring keynote speakers and practical workshops.



Thursday welcomed two keynote speakers, Karen Ferguson and Zoe Lodrick. Whilst Karen opened the conference with her session on **PDA: The Whole Story**, Zoe closed the day with a talk on **Unveiling the Psychology of Child Exploitation**. Although the two sessions were very different in their content and style, delegates agreed that both were thought provoking, relevant and informative.

Sandwiched between the keynotes were three workshop sessions where delegates had the opportunity to choose from four options. Sarah Ayache from The William Henry Smith School delivered a workshop on **Rules, Ripples and Regulations: Therapeutic Strategies in Practice** that balanced theory and experience with practical as delegates were encouraged to express themselves through art. John d'Abbro examined **What Makes an 'Outstanding' SEMH School** as he spoke of his own experiences, challenged delegates to explore their own concepts, and consider how these do ... or don't! ... fit with the current Ofsted inspection framework. One of the members of the Chaigeley School care team, Peter Kelly, spoke passionately about life **Through the Eyes of Chaos Kid** as he considered that regardless of our experiences, emotional learning is lifelong and life scripts can always be re-written. Finally, John O'Neill from the Witherslack Group reflected on some of the ideas and strategies that have been tried and tested as he looked at **What Goes Around Comes Around: Leading In A Culture of Change**.

The first day of the conference programme finished with regional meetings and the AGM where Antonio Munoz-Bailey, Chair of *engage in their future*, looked at the progress of the organisation over the last twelve months including some exciting commercial relationships and their associated benefits for members, the ongoing promotion of student achievements through schemes such as the National Awards and National Creative Awards, as well as highlights and examples of peer support from across the network. Sue Asher, Treasurer provided an update on the current financial status of the organisation, and John d'Abbro followed up on the opportunity initially launched with RAISE Online at the 2016 Conference about the development of metrics around KS4 efficiency.

The day closed with a wine reception hosted by Tute Education, and the conference dinner both of which were well attended and well received!

Day two of the conference was opened by Bernard Allen speaking about **Mood Management: Understanding the Whole Body, Brain and Mind**. His clear and fascinating talk truly engaged delegates as he took them on a journey through mind, body and brain.



It was then the turn of Larry Bartel to host the ever popular Teach Meet session. As always, the session was entertaining and informative with plenty of examples of good practice for delegates to take away and share with colleagues.

Throughout the two days, delegates had plenty of opportunity to meet with exhibitors from Vision for Education, The School Bus, Tute Education, and Sleuth. For those already working with these companies it was a chance to spend a little more time with them, and for those who were in the market for such services, it was good opportunity to find out about what they offered.

Finally delegates welcomed Dr Andrew Curran to close the conference with his keynote talk on [Loving and Learning: Why a Loved Child Learns Best](#). The scientific content of his talk was understandable to everyone as was its relevance to the students and young people we work with. Neuro-science was a theme picked up in many of the keynotes and workshops throughout the conference and Andrew's session really highlighted the growing importance of the topic.

Conference feedback, both verbal and written, was extremely positive: 100% of responders to the evaluation form felt that the conference gave them value for money with the opportunity to network and meet colleagues mentioned as a high point for many.

It can sometimes be difficult to link science and theory to experience and day to day reality but across the two days of the conference, this link was repeatedly examined as speakers and workshop hosts considered the matter, drawing on their knowledge and expertise, delivering evidence and examples that highlighted the importance and relevance of it to the sector in which we work.



National Awards

The National Awards invites staff from *engage in their future* member schools to nominate those students that have achieved the amazing. Uniquely though, the judges take the context and individual circumstances of each one into consideration to ensure that those achievements are judged on their own merits and not against pre-defined standards or expectations.

So it was a genuine privilege to welcome the short-listed winners to the 2017 National Awards Ceremony at the Cophorne Hotel in Newcastle upon Tyne on Wednesday 6th July with many travelling some distance to be there.



With Chair of *engage in their future*, Antonio Munoz-Bailey having welcomed everyone, special guest Megan Borthwick from Durham Women FC inspired attendees as she spoke of the challenges she has faced and the resilience, determination and hard work it has taken to overcome them. Richard Berry and Larry Bartel then took charge of proceedings and as they worked through the nine categories and welcomed the short-listed winners to the front to receive their certificate and trophy.

For possibly the last time, the National Awards were sponsored by Steve and Maureen Cliften who have long been supporters of *engage in their future* and the National Awards. We are enormously grateful for their involvement and would like to extend a formal 'thank you' for everything they've done.

The window for nominations for the 2018 National Awards will be open from early in the new year, but now is an excellent time to start thinking about possible nominees. There is a category to suit every achievement and area of progress and each nomination will be judged on its own merits. Every nomination will be sent a certificate and short-listed winners will be invited to attend the National Awards Ceremony. No-one leaves the ceremony empty handed and whilst it is a great opportunity to celebrate with family, friends and staff, attendance is not obligatory and has no bearing on the outcome of the nomination. Details will be sent to all member schools later this year and will be available on the website (www.engageintheirfuture.org) so please keep a look out for them and get nominating!

National Creative Awards

The 2017 *engage in their future* National Creative Awards, sponsored by The School Bus, invited students and staff from the network of member schools to express their creativity around the theme of 'Dreaming' and take a photograph, write a short story, or compose a poem (or all three!).



It was definitely a case of quality and quantity as more entries than ever before were received, each one of them demonstrating a consistently high standard of thought and effort. With each of the creative categories having its own judging panel, they had a tough job reviewing and scoring each entry.

Each one was sent a certificate and those were short-listed also received a trophy, many of which were personally delivered by representatives from The School Bus. These entries were also printed and framed for display at the National Awards Ceremony and National Conference before being sent to their owners as an extra reminder and celebration of their achievement.

Entries in the 2018 National Creative Awards will be welcomed from late January and further details about the scheme and how to enter will be sent to member schools and made available on the website (www.engageintheirfuture.org). The theme will be 'This Globe. My World' so why not encourage the staff and students at your school to start thinking about what this means to them and how they might express that via a photograph, a short story or a poem?

Forthcoming Events

- Monday 23rd October 2017: The William Henry Smith School conference.
 - Learning Behaviours: Strategies for Success
- Friday 10th November 2017: Midlands regional conference at the Forest Arts Centre, Walsall.
 - SEMH: Overcoming the Challenge
- Friday 4th May 2018: South / South East regional conference at Muntham House School, West Sussex.
 - Changing Complexities: Developments in Provisions for Children and Young People with SEMH Difficulties
- Thursday 5th and Friday 6th July 2018: *engage in their future* and SEBDA National Conference at the Coldra Court Hotel, Newport.
 - SEMH Theory Into Practice

Membership Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions for 2017 / 2018 are now due.

If you've not yet renewed your membership of *engage in their future* please do so as soon as possible to ensure that your benefits continue without interruption.

The School Bus

Many of you will be aware that we have a relationship with The School Bus who offer authentic solutions to the problems facing school leaders. Their current, compliant and comprehensive articles, templates and model policies provide actionable advice alongside carefully crafted and compliant model documents.

Not only do The School Bus offer *engage in their future* member schools a 10% discount, but they also provide us with monthly updates and free access to some relevant, informative guidance documents. This month, the documents focus on –

- Undertaking an Effective Pupil Wellbeing Audit, and
- Developing an Effective Peer Mentoring Programme

Both documents are available on our website, along with a link to The School Bus should you be interested in finding out more about the service they offer.

Their monthly update can be found below



The School Bus Monthly Update

The Children Act 2004 defines wellbeing as: physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing; protection from harm and neglect; education training and recreation; the contribution children make to society; as well as social and economic wellbeing.

Researchers from the UCL Institute of Education and the University of Liverpool analysed information on the mental health of over 10,000 children born between 2000 and 2001. The results revealed that, based on the emotional problems teenagers reported they had, 24 percent of girls suffered from depression by the time they were 14 years old, compared to nine percent of boys.

Schools play a key role in ensuring the wellbeing of their pupils. Our Undertaking an Effective Pupil Wellbeing Audit guidance document can help schools gain an incredible insight into the wellbeing of their pupils, alongside forming the basis of a whole-school approach to a mental and emotional health strategy.

Furthermore, our Developing an Effective Peer Mentoring Programme guidance document outlines a quick guide to establishing a peer mentoring programme - providing opportunities for pupils to support one another within your school.