

# Personalised Education Now

(Trading name for the Centre for Personalised Education. Charity number 1057442)

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## Newsletter - July 2006

Dear Member

We hope you are surviving the heat of this July – it certainly does not encourage me to work. However, it is good to see the renewals gradually coming in – we really do need your support to maintain our various activities. We are finding that more and more people are subscribing (free of charge) to receive E-Briefings and access the website, which is excellent as we want ideas to circulate, however, it is your member subscriptions that enable us to survive.

### **The 10th Anniversary of *The Centre for Personalised Education***

To those of us who worked towards establishing the Centre as a Charitable Trust, it seems incredible that 10 years has passed. To members, this date may not have the same significance as their association first with *Education Now*, and then with its metamorphosis into *Personalised Education Now in 2004*. The status of the *Centre for Personalised Education* has led to greater recognition of the values and principles that are developed in our ideas and through our various activities. One example is the support we received to initiate the research project on home-based education – a particular model of personalised learning. Another relates to the links we are developing with the Creative Communities Unit in the Faculty of Arts, Media and Design at Staffordshire University. But one important element in creating the Centre was to welcome as members a range of groups who shared our fundamental values. This has led to increasing the support we give to each other.

### **Learning Exchange at Burleigh Community College on 2nd April**

The main focus at this year's Learning Exchange was personalised education in the area of Community Arts. This was presented by Mark Webster, Senior Lecturer at Staffordshire University who works in the Creative Communities Unit. This provided new insights into what is being achieved in community education for many members, who found Mark's presentation both stimulating and uplifting as it highlighted the values and principles of PEN. In the morning Peter outlined some national developments involving personalised learning, and Philip Toogood introduced us to a research project on independent learning in a London Secondary School.

### **Future Conference at Toddington on Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th October 2006**

The next *Learning Exchange* will take the form of an overnight, residential conference on 14th/15th October at the *Planned Environment Therapy Trust Conference Centre*, Toddington, Gloucestershire. Although the conference will begin **at 11.00 with drinks on Saturday 14th October** and end at **lunchtime on Sunday 15th October**, some members may prefer to travel each day, or just come for the day on Saturday, or Sunday morning. This is what some members elected to do last year. The **main themes** for the conference are:

- Saturday 14th 11.30 – developments in PEN  
12.00 - exchanges between members  
2.00 - *Deconstructing Schools* led by Alan
- Sunday 15th 9.30 – *Recycling Schools* led by Peter and Roland

Both days will, as usual, be interactive, with stimuli leading to discussion, on which future policy of PEN will be based.

This will be the fourth conference we have held at Toddington as it is an extremely attractive, comfortable, friendly venue. Accommodation is in twin-bedded rooms with adjacent bathrooms. We are indebted to the *Potential Trust* who are again supporting this event with a grant, as is the *Centre for Personalised Education Trust*. As the result of these grants, there will be substantial assistance for members towards the costs of this conference, which is **free to members and their families**. This includes bed and breakfast accommodation for those staying overnight, all drinks and meals, excluding Sunday lunch for which there will be a charge of £6.00, and a grant of up to £20 towards travelling expenses. For any further information please contact Janet at the usual address. If you know you would like to participate, **return the enclosed red form by Monday 4th September 2006.**

### **Home Education Fair in Notting Hill, London – Saturday 23rd September**

(Leslie is sending me details)

### **Developing a DVD on *Personalised Learning***

The Trustees are applying for funding to produce a DVD on this theme in order to present the principles and values of personalised learning with tangible examples provided by members, in another accessible media.

### **HESFES (Home Education Seaside Festival)**

In June, Roland, Peter, Mike, Leslie and Janet (plus other members of PEN) were to be found at HESFES on Mersea Island, Essex. A new and excellent venue for the festival contributed to another successful event, and demonstrated once again the contribution home-based educators make to our understanding of personalised learning.

### **Educational Heretics Press Publications**

June saw the publication of the second report on the home-based education research project – *Home-based Education 2: numbers, support, special needs*. Written by Mike Fortune-Wood, who launched it at HESFES.

Good wishes

