

Welcome

Welcome to our Summer Term 2008 update for the field trial sites and Community of Practice around the Next Practice in Education and Learning Futures Programmes.

Links in this newsletter allow you to download a variety of free toolkits and resources developed from the Next Practice in Education Programme, the chance to win £1,000 for blogging, an opportunity to volunteer for some free leadership coaching for your Headteacher and Chair of Governors, information on our new service offer for multi-school Trusts and collaboratives, as well as access to forthcoming think pieces from The Innovation Unit.

We hope you find it useful and stimulating and would welcome any feedback you might have.

Toolkits and Resources



As part of the Next Practice in Education Programme we have developed a number of resources and toolkits which are now available to download, for free, from the [toolkits and resources](#) section of our website.

These resources include:

- **Delta 6** - for use with leadership teams or wider groups such as governing bodies or a network of schools. Can be used to think about and prioritise the key global, national and local challenges we face and how your school can respond to them.
- **Looking to Learn** - this three-part booklet is a guide to innovative and disciplined collaborative enquiry. It outlines an approach that combines peer observation and written accounts of practice.
- **The Leadership and Governance Landing Pad** - facilitated toolkit which enables constructive dialogue around five complex issues - context, action, purpose, leadership and governance. Explores system leadership from different perspectives.
- **Self Evaluation Activity** - the self evaluation materials are designed to prompt discussion and reflection about your innovation project. Completing the activity will support you and your colleagues to: review your starting point and success criteria; evaluate plans and progress to date; revisit and revise plans in the light of progress and changes in context or priorities.
- **Fusion** - the development of these materials was funded by The Innovation Unit as part of its Next Practice in Parents and Carers Project. Fusion is aimed at equipping families and family professionals with skills and strategies to improve positive communication within the family unit. Fusion is a six-session course (Staying calm, Learning to listen, Encouraging each other, Planning 'Family Time', Problem solving and Living it out) comprising workbooks, a leader's guide and a DVD.

Next Practice Acceleration Space



The Next Practice Acceleration Space is a learning resource to help connect practitioners (ie people working in schools, Local Authorities or based in the community) to the people and experiences they wish to learn more about around innovative or 'next' practices in education.

It has been described as *"Wikipedia meets Facebook meets Online Dating for school leaders interested in Next Practice."*

This online space hosts 'how to' guides, developed by practitioners for practitioners, around Next Practice in Resourcing Personalisation, Communities Engaged in Learning and Engaging Parents and Carers.

The space content has been developed with, and by, practitioners with relevant Next Practice experience. Each asks and answers fundamental questions:

- What are the practice areas of Next Practice (eg Personalisation) and what do they look like?
- Why would I want to apply any of these Next Practice areas? How will it help my school with its issues and challenges?
- Why would I want to apply Next Practice? How will it help my school with its issues and challenges?
- Where can I find examples of Next Practice in Resourcing Personalisation and find out what is happening in my area?
- Who has experience in the areas that interest me and how can I contact them?
- How do I make it happen? How can I learn from the real life experiences of practitioners?

The space content and functionality is currently being tested by a group of a few hundred practitioners and will be updated over the summer based on their feedback. We will be inviting a wider group of almost 2,000 who have expressed an interest, including you, in the Autumn Term. Look out for launch information in our next newsletter.

Final Report from the Next Practice in Education Programme



The final report highlighting the work across all of the field trial sites can be downloaded [here](#).

Multi-school Trusts and Collaboratives



As a part of its Applied Next Practice work, The Innovation Unit is keen to work with a limited number of multi-school Trusts and collaboratives to support them to achieve their aspirations and radical purposes. The Specialist School and Academies Trust will assist all potential Trusts to achieve Trust status. The Innovation Unit's unique position is to help the most ambitious to utilise Trust status to enact real change.

Our core service offer to multi-school Trusts and collaboratives includes the following:

- a partnership strategy designed to help you achieve your purposes and aspirations
- support to design new models of system governance and leadership
- approximately 12 days site-specific consultancy from an IU Senior Associate
- up to the equivalent of 3 days' regular e-mail and telephone consultancy advice
- a custom-designed model of 'executive coaching' for 3 key leaders
- ongoing access to practice insights and external expertise
- brokerage of partnerships and alliances to advance your work.

Further information on our approach and Service Offer can be found [here](#).

Family Impact



Family Impact is a unique, online tool, designed by The Innovation Unit and [Cognisco](#) to capture and report, in real time, the views of parents/carers of school children.

The tool incorporates scenarios reflecting the five aims of Every Child Matters (be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being). Parents indicate whether they think the suggestions or actions in the statements in the scenarios are correct or not. A unique aspect of Family Impact is that parents/carers are also asked to rate their level of confidence in the answer they have given. Several hundred parents, across multiple schools, were involved in piloting the tool and their feedback has been incorporated into the final design. You can try a demo version [here](#).

Participate in our research and win £1,000, an iPhone or an iTouch!

In April 2008, Becta launched a major research programme to support their Harnessing Technology strategy. There are three main projects, each with a different theme.

The Innovation Unit is working with [Kable](#) and [Becta](#) to look at business processes (eg generation and management of teaching content, data capture and reporting of assessment information, teacher recruitment and retention) that support educational organisations and, in turn, their learners. Our research is concerned with existing processes, support and services at a local, regional and national level and how these might be changed for the better. It includes funding mechanisms, procurement approaches, training and professional development and will draw on practice and lessons learned in other sectors. We would like to work with you to identify key areas where improvements would make a significant positive difference to the environment in which practitioners work, the impact of their work, and the experiences and successes of learners.

The research focus is on how technology can help improve the 'business processes' of children's centres, schools, colleges and other educational institutions. We would be really grateful to have your help in identifying key

questions and potential solutions. In the first instance, please log on to the blog or wiki and give your views on which of the following questions are important (or not) and why?

Blog: <http://newsfan.typepad.co.uk/kableht/>

Wiki: <http://kableht.wik.is/>

Terms and conditions for prizes can be found on the blog.

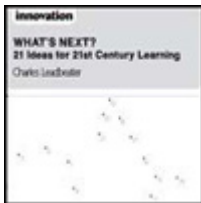
Learning Futures Next Practice Project (with Paul Hamlyn Foundation)



This exciting project is exploring what Next Practices in pedagogy for the 21st century might look like. In May 2008, more than one hundred of the country's most innovative leaders attended two one-day Creative Events. Participants worked with the model of pedagogy described in the publication, and built from their current practice proposals further to deepen the engagement of young people in their learning

The publication, together with a report and output from the Creative Events can be found [here](#).

What's Next? 21 ideas for 21st century learning



On 10th July 2008, The Innovation Unit is launching *What's Next?* by Charles Leadbeater.

Leadbeater asks: 'How can we build on the most radical innovations in today's schools to create a new approach to learning fit for the century to come?'. He makes 21 recommendations which, taken together, provide a new narrative for better schools and more engaged learners.

As part of his research for this publication, Leadbeater visited several of The Innovation Unit's Next Practice field trial sites including Bridgemarky, Cramlington, Darlington Education Village, Eastfeast, Winsford and Yewlands. Their practices are described throughout the publication.

The publication will be available to download [here](#) from 10th July. There will be an item featuring the work in the Education Guardian on Tuesday 8th July.

Honest Brokers: brokering innovation in public services



Highly innovative sectors of the economy benefit from an infrastructure of science and innovation parks, business incubators, R&D labs and the like. What would the equivalent infrastructure look like to support innovation that tackled chronic disease, youth crime, climate change or teenage pregnancy?

Matthew Horne explores the role of innovation brokers in public services; what they are, what they do and why they might be needed to support innovation in public services. The publication is available to download [here](#).

Coach in a Box for Headteachers and Chairs of Governors - volunteer for free leadership coaching



The Innovation Unit is working with **Coach in a Box** to develop a tailored coaching process specifically designed to:

- help Headteachers and Chairs of Governors forge a strategic partnership for the benefit of the school
- provide tools to assist in building and sustaining an effective relationship
- directly apply the learning from the coaching product on a pressing

strategic issue for the school.

We are still at the diagnostic stage, but it is anticipated that the product will include the following:

- A Personal Coach will work with both the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors over the period of one term, using short but regular telephone coaching sessions to help keep their thinking and actions moving on.
- Each person will also have one session with a Specialist Coach to focus on achieving a breakthrough in their relationship.
- These coaching sessions will be built into a modular programme, specifically designed for the education system. This means that each Head or Chair will be working through structured material and challenges that lead up to and support the coaching conversations.
- The process will be designed to link to a current strategic issue within the school and the leadership partnership will apply their learning from the programme to this strategic challenge.

We would like to invite schools to volunteer to be involved in the diagnostic stage. **The pilot will provide some free leadership coaching for your Headteacher and Chair of Governors.** We would be particularly interested in contexts where there is a recently appointed Headteacher or Chair of Governors. To register your interest, please [contact us](#) with your contact details.

Summer break



We hope you have an enjoyable (and relaxing!) break over the summer and look forward to working with, and learning from, many of you next term.

Send to a friend



If you know of anyone else who would be interested in connecting with other innovative practitioners in education please forward this e-mail. If they would like to join the Next Practice Community of Interest they should [contact us](#), providing their full name, e-mail address and organisation.

You will also be able to download a copy of this newsletter from our website www.innovation-unit.co.uk.

Please click [here](#) if you wish to unsubscribe from future newsletters.