



Citizenship Update

Welcome to the first edition of the Institute for Citizenship's newsletter for this academic year and happy anniversary! This September marks the first anniversary of the introduction of Citizenship as a statutory element of the National Curriculum. It has been a challenging and exciting 12 months for schools, teachers and students across the country, as they have all had get to grips with the delivery of this new subject, and congratulations must go out to all those, inside and outside of the classroom, who have worked so hard to bring Citizenship to life. The Ofsted report published in July, which indicated that schools need to do more to ensure effective planning and implementation of the subject, presents us with a new set of challenges for the coming year and beyond. Invaluable work has been done in the first year and we need to must continue to build on this to ensure the subject's future success. Wishing you a successful new year.

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News

Ofsted report

The Ofsted report on Citizenship, *National Curriculum Citizenship: planning and implementation 2002/3, June 2003, HMI 1606* stated that less than half of the 25 schools inspected during autumn term 2002 and spring term 2003 were managing the introduction of Citizenship to a satisfactory standard. The main explanation given was that, "the full implications of Citizenship as a National Curriculum subject were not understood or, in a small number of schools... were not accepted."

When reading the report, it is important to remember that only a small sample of schools was inspected during the early stages of the new Citizenship curriculum becoming a statutory requirement for secondary schools. However, there are key issues in the report that can assist in the effective development and delivery of Citizenship in secondary schools in the future:

- Citizenship education, when delivered effectively, should impact on the ethos of the school. It is a subject that needs whole school support and recognition, whether delivered across the curriculum or in designated Citizenship lessons.
- Most schools were combining Citizenship with PSHE and only one in five schools was doing so satisfactorily. Schools need

a clear scheme of work that reflects Citizenship's distinctive nature.

- Schools must work out a suitable assessment and reporting procedure.

Activate! Citizenship Co-ordinator's Handbook

The Citizenship Co-ordinator's Handbook is a comprehensively updated edition of the *Activate! Teacher Starter File* for Key Stages 3 and 4 (2001). Designed as a key reference tool for Citizenship co-ordinators, it draws on a wealth of experience to provide a solid foundation for effective delivery of Citizenship in secondary schools. In the updated version, there are substantial changes to content and further advice is included on:

- Getting Citizenship established in the school
- Developing Citizenship skills
- Assessment and reporting
- SEN
- Monitoring and evaluation
- INSET
- How Citizenship links with other agendas in education

The Citizenship Co-ordinator's Handbook will be invaluable to all Citizenship educators, regardless of other resources used in school and will be available to buy from Nelson Thornes from October 2003.
www.nelsonthornes.com

News from CSV

CSV's report, *"Citizenship in the National Curriculum – one year on"*, is published in September. The survey of teachers at 60 schools reveals, amongst other findings, an urgent need for practical support to implement effective Citizenship education. The report is available from the CSV website www.csv.org.uk

News from the Citizenship Foundation

In September, the Citizenship Foundation launches the National Political Journalism competition. It invites young people from the UK's schools and youth groups to experience the relationship between politics and media by tackling their chosen political issue in print, on TV or radio. More information from amy.bush@citizenshipfoundation.org.uk

News from ACT

- An ACT conference will take place in Manchester, in association with Manchester LEA, on February 25 2004. Further details to follow.
- Take part in ACT policy-making! ACT is researching experience of the implementation of Citizenship in the National Curriculum. Get a copy of the survey from the website or phone 020 7367 0510

Teaching Active Citizenship website

The Institute for Citizenship will help teachers and other practitioners working with young people through the launch of its new *Teaching Active Citizenship* website at the end of September 2003. The site is the result of the Institute's ongoing work on active Citizenship projects in schools and youth groups and will be accessed through the Institute's own website www.citizen.org.uk.

In 1998, the Advisory Group on Citizenship's report stated that one of the main aims of Citizenship education was "for people to think of themselves as active citizens, willing able and equipped to have an influence in public life" [*Education for Citizenship and the Teaching of Democracy in Schools, para 1.5*]. For this reason, one of the key elements of the new programme of study aims

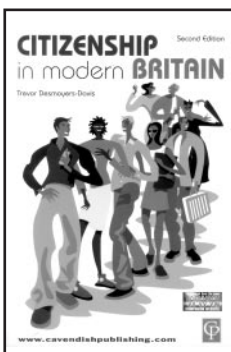
to develop students' skills of participation and responsible action.

Active citizenship is about taking part and must be encouraged, practised and informed. Providing opportunities for young people to develop the necessary skills presents schools and other organisations with a difficult challenge but also a unique opportunity to have an impact on the whole school ethos, as well as the wider community.

The website is dedicated to education for active citizenship and will include free downloadable teaching resources, case studies, links to other useful websites, organisations and resources, as well as guidance on the different models and activities that can assist in the delivery of active citizenship.

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Citizenship in Modern Britain Second Edition by Trevor Desmoyers-Davis



ISBN: 1 85941 808 2
Published July 2003
£16.95

This book is essential for students taking AS level Citizenship. The subject matter has been divided into three sections, corresponding to each of the AQA AS Level modules. The text provides all the necessary academic material required for examinable citizenship courses, supported and developed by a series of practical and discursive activities. These activities have been designed not only extend to students' knowledge of the subject, but also to encourage thought, debate and evaluation.

Besides AS level Citizenship students, the text also provides excellent support for students who are studying sociology, law, Government, politics and general studies.

For a FREE inspection copy, please contact Carol Perkins on 020 278 8000 or email carolperkins@cavendishpublishing.com

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www.cavendishpublishing.com

Cavendish Publishing Ltd, The Glass House,
Wharton Street, London WC1X 9PX, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)20 7278 8000 Fax: +44 (0)20 7278 8080

STOP PRESS...

- During the coming weeks, keep an eye on your pigeonhole for a letter announcing the forthcoming Schools' Question Time competition. This is a great opportunity for schools to win the chance to produce their own local Question Time. The overall winners will help to produce their Question Time as a televised BBC programme, chaired by David Dimbleby, presenter and chair of Question Time and also President of the Institute for Citizenship.

- The DfES autumn conference on Citizenship – One Year On will take place in London at the end of November – more details to follow.

Speak Out! in Strasbourg

As part of the Institute for Citizenship's long running programme *Speak Out! on European citizenship*, 35 young Europeans found themselves in Strasbourg for a week in early July, apprehensive about who they were going to meet and wondering what they were doing there when they could have been enjoying their holidays with their friends.

The 15-18 year olds were winners of a pan-European competition to write essays addressing many European issues such as migration, diversity, Europe's future and EU enlargement, and their prize was a trip to the seat of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. This was the culmination of a year of hard work and online discussion between hundreds of young Europeans, not only within the EU, but also those about to join or for whom joining is not yet a likely prospect. The focus of discussion has been on the functioning of the European Union and Council of Europe and, more importantly, the issues that affect the lives of European citizens and make people care about each other and the reasons these organisations exist in the first place – human rights, diversity, communication, migration, language, culture, war and peace.

Understanding the European Union and the UK's relationship to it is an essential part of the National Curriculum for Citizenship at Key Stages 3 and 4. *Speak Out! on European citizenship* capitalises on the Internet to help in the delivery of European Citizenship education by bringing Europe to life and creating links between young people across borders. This is the idea behind the study trip – bringing young people together and providing them with an opportunity to speak to their elected representatives about issues that concern them.

And so the group, made up of representatives from Sweden, Poland, France, the UK, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania, spent the week in discussions with Members of the European Parliament,

talking about migration, meeting European Commissioner Neil Kinnock to discuss active and European Citizenship, and observing the European Court of Human Rights in action, deliberating on the rights of Polish minorities. All very interesting, thought-provoking, challenging and exciting for the young people, but by far the most important feature of the week for all of them was making new friends and swapping contact details with people from other countries. Despite their clearly divergent beliefs about many issues raised during the discussions, the group had plenty in common and came a step closer to understanding what European Citizenship is all about.

Get the Vote Out! 2004

The next European Parliament, London Mayor, Greater London Assembly, and some local government elections all take place on 10 June 2004, providing a unique learning opportunity for young people to engage with the democratic process and structures. The Institute for Citizenship is running a high-profile nationwide campaign and plans to develop educational resources, subject to funding, to guide teachers and young people through the issues and practicalities of elections. For more information about *Get the Vote Out! 2004*, contact Gavin Hayes on 020 7935 4777 or email gavin@citizen.org.uk.

Question Time on EU Enlargement with the Minister for Europe!

The Institute for Citizenship, supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the UK office of the European Parliament, invites you and your students to participate in a discussion on EU Enlargement with the Minister for Europe, Dr Denis MacShane MP. Will enlargement be good or bad for Britain? How will Europe change? How will it impact on the countries joining? Is it really necessary? Come and ask your questions and voice your opinions to our expert panel, including HE Stefan Füle, ambassador of the Czech Republic. The event will be chaired by the Institute for Citizenship's president, David Dimbleby. On registering, every participating school will receive a free teacher guide about European Citizenship and a supplementary guide about EU enlargement.

Venue: Lancaster House, Stable Yard,
London, SW1

Date: Monday 6 October 2003

Time: 2.30 – 4.30 pm

This event is FREE and open to students in Years 10, 11 and 12 and their teachers. To reserve places, simply fill in the form and return by Wednesday 24 September to 62 Marylebone High Street, London W1U 5HZ or fax 020 7486 9212. For further information, telephone 020 7935 4777 or email emma@citizen.org.uk.

Name of school

Address

Phone number

Fax number

Email

Name of teacher

Number of students to attend (maximum 20)

Democracy through Citizenship

Democracy through Citizenship is a Project funded by The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd. It works with secondary schools in York "to encourage and support active Citizenship in young people", defining active Citizenship as creating opportunities for young people to:

- have their say
- get involved in their community
- make things happen
- make decisions about their community, be it their class, school, neighbourhood, city or country
- become involved in the political process.

The Project is now in its second year and has developed a number of strands to its work, including:

Developing resources

Citizenship resources have been developed for Key Stages 3 and 4 and for the past year they have been used successfully by teachers in York during Citizenship lessons. The resources are due to be published next year. Details will be available in subsequent issues of this newsletter or via the Institute website www.citizen.org.uk. A sample resource is available now to download from the site.

INSET

The Project has developed a programme of INSET covering how Citizenship can be delivered in a way that provides opportunities for students to be involved in real issues in their community. INSET will be available to whole school Citizenship teams or Citizenship co-ordinators in individual LEAs. See the website www.citizen.org.uk for further details.

Partnerships

A key aspect of the Project's work is to draw different organisations in the community into working partnerships with

schools. Many statutory and voluntary organisations want to work with schools to involve young people in projects. Schools benefit from being able to draw on people with a wide variety of experience and are able to offer real opportunities to students to make a difference in their community, for example the Project is working with schools, The Children's Fund and the local Youth Service to develop ways that students can feel safer and less threatened by crime in their community.

Active participation

Students across the whole ability range have proved themselves highly capable of organising events and developing curriculum materials. The Project has worked very closely with a local school to develop resources explaining the role and function of the local council and how elections are organised. The resource also suggests ways in which young people can be actively involved in decision-making in their community.

One point that has come out of the Project is the pupils' enthusiasm about getting involved and the ongoing interest that is engendered. Comments from students have included:

- "Thursday is the best day of the week because we organise the *Question Time*."
- "Since organising the event I find that I pay much more attention to the news."

This aspect of the Project has received a further boost from the DFES' consultation which aims to increase the scope of pupil participation in education and explores the positive effect participation can have on, "standards, behaviour and inclusion". With students in both mainstream and special schools, the Project has developed a resource called *Go on Then – Make Inclusion Work*, which promotes increased inclusion

in mainstream schools. Details of how to obtain this resource are available on www.citizen.org.uk.

'Off-Timetable' days

The Project has worked with schools to develop 'off-timetable' days where a particular aspect of the Citizenship curriculum is explored in depth with a variety of outside agencies to give different perspectives to students. One important message that has come out of 'off-timetable' days is how vital preparation and follow-up are for both pupils and staff. More information about these days will be available via the Institute website www.citizen.org.uk.

The Democracy through Citizenship Project is entering a new phase. Last year showed that, given the right circumstances, the curriculum provides many opportunities for students to become politically aware, responsible and more active in their communities. In the coming year, the Project plans to work with partners across the north to promote active Citizenship in schools. For more information about Democracy through Citizenship, contact Bernie Flanagan on 01904 654 557 or email: bernie@citizen.org.uk.

Contact us

Institute for Citizenship
62 Marylebone High Street
London
W1U 5HZ

Email: education@citizen.org.uk
Telephone: 020 7935 4777