

schoolzone *newswire*

educational intelligence

message from the editor..

Gifted and talented: what does this mean?

You may have noticed that the national Gifted and Talented strategy has recently been attracting a lot of attention - not least from Gordon Brown who, in a recent speech, promised to give "1 million of our most talented children the opportunity to benefit from special, stretching tuition." (31st October 2007, University of Greenwich)

If you do the maths, you may notice that this means that the target for selection has stretched from the top 5% of pupils at each school, to the top 10%.

But not only is there a lack of clarity and commonality on the selection criteria for schools' gifted and talented programmes, there is actual confusion over nomenclature. The following definition may be useful: 'Gifted' refers to those who excel or are capable of excelling, in academic subjects such as English, Geography or French. 'Talented' refers to those pupils who may excel in areas of the curriculum such as games and PE, music and performing arts.

The vision from the DCSF is that provision for pupils must centre on 'what happens in classrooms on a day to day basis'. Key to this strategy of inclusion is appointing a 'Leading Teacher' at each secondary school (in primary schools, the leading teacher may support a cluster of schools) who will support colleagues to develop their practice. Again, our research points to a gap between what schools ought to be doing, and the actual priority given to their Gifted and Talented strategy. We're currently carrying out some research on behalf of London Gifted and Talented, an agency that produces online resources to support the most able children across KS2-4.

From January, these will be available for you to 'try before you buy' on our website, and we'll be giving away information about them at BETT in early January. These are just some of the resources available on www.schoolzone.co.uk, so please do keep our page bookmarked, and make sure you're informed about the latest product reviews, research projects and free trials.

Email your comments to newswire@schoolzone.co.uk.

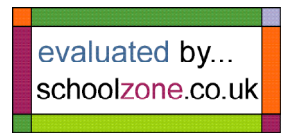
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Schoolzone can help. Our evaluations are independent and written by classroom teachers. There are currently **815** independently-evaluated products on the Schoolzone website and available in our Digital Resource Guide (see www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/evaluations/getDRG.asp for how to order the hard copy edition).

Search here for your subject area and age-range: www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/evaluations/findeval.asp

Recent additions include hardware evaluations and Interactive Whiteboard use is considered where appropriate.



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www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/webguide/search/index.asp then add the subject, key stage or any other relevant information. The results will show resources to suit your needs, many of them free!

schoolzone interact

Schoolzone Interact currently has 2295 schools as registered users. The service allows full access to publishers' educational content on a 'try before you buy' basis. There is a 'new to Interact' section for those who would like an introduction to what is on offer and there is no commitment to buy at the end of the trial period.

To access this free digital content please go to:
www.schoolzone.co.uk/community/interact/login.asp

Schoolzone has recently changed the criteria for inclusion into Interact which means a wealth of new resources will be available through the system over the autumn term. Keep your eyes peeled and take advantage of this great 'try before you buy' feature.

Interact feedback:

In a pre-launch Interact focus group teachers stated:

"This is a way to interface with bits of software that I am interested in and cut out the dross, I can find directly what I want."

New content in Schoolzone Interact

Access cross-curricular resource **NumberGym Plus** for free



NumberGym Plus is our latest product, aimed at KS3 & 4. Currently we offer a comprehensive geometry module featuring interactive activities on trigonometry, circle geometry, the four transformations, a set of graphing tools, allowing the user to quickly create and modify all types of graphs from straight line to the trig functions, and a fascinating visual proof of Pythagoras' theorem. The range of topics will soon be expanded and updates are provided free for the first year.

Please visit: <http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/community/interact/login.asp> to access **NumberGym Plus**, plus more free online content.

Have you accessed the Schoolzone Virtual Tours yet?

Virtual Tours are interactive demonstrations of educational content together with independent teacher voiceovers. This month's example is a Science/Geography product for students aged 11-14:

E.ON Energy Experience - Energy Nation - E.ON UK plc

"The E.ON Energy Experience is a major new programme to help young people learn about energy. Whether they are starting out or finishing their schooling, energy will be a dominant theme in their lives. They are part of a generation that will have to make key decisions, individually and collectively, which will affect them and the rest of the world. The E.ON Energy Experience has the ambition of helping to create an energy literate generation giving them the information they need to make informed choices. The Energy Nation section of the programme, aimed at students aged 11-14, supports the science and geography curricula for England, Wales and Scotland."

Check out the Virtual Tour area for further examples covering all subjects and key stages.

Don't forget ... to have your say

Currently we are asking our website users the following question...



Is your pupils' school uniform too expensive?

So far, of the respondents, **299** have voted **YES** and **109** have said **NO**.

Please go to our homepage at www.schoolzone.co.uk to cast your vote or email your comments to the Editor at newswire@schoolzone.co.uk.

Each month the Schoolzone website brings you details of events of interest to the education community:
www.schoolzone.co.uk/eventsandtraining/index.asp

For example:

Getting Started with Gifted & Talented

Date: 22 Jan 2008 09:00-17:00

Getting Started with G&T is aimed at teachers new to gifted and talented provision. Through practical workshops teachers will learn strategies and techniques to challenge their most able pupils and enhance their learning.

Telephone: **020 7993 3202** or e-mail: events@londongt.org

Further details on the website.