

# schoolzone *newsletter*

educational intelligence

## message from the editor..

Well, it's back to school for the start of another year...

The good news - according to researchers, at least - is that teachers (for the most part) love their jobs - in spite of the hard work, long hours, and the pressure to constantly drive up pupil performance, (although you may be feeling just a little ambivalent about this right now).

Researchers are pretty much in agreement over why this is: it seems that teachers are motivated by altruism - the satisfaction of seeing learners grasp a concept, whether cognitive, social or emotional. Apparently teachers are also most motivated by leadership which is neither too prescriptive nor too relaxed, but which sets high standards and actively promotes professional development.

However, as with any profession, teaching has its 'dis-satisfiers', both external and school-specific. Knowing what these are, and understanding the impact that they have on your own and other teachers' ability to work effectively is vital to running (and working in) a successful school.

Schoolzone, in conjunction with the University of Gloucestershire is currently developing a series of tools that will enable schools to monitor levels of staff satisfaction. Unlike other survey services, the data will be analysed instantly, giving you immediate feedback that will be benchmarked against other, similar schools.

Other potential benefits include:

- Monitoring/ measuring the impact of new initiatives and CPD training.
- Head teachers can identify what kind of leadership qualities motivate members of staff, and then seek to recruit/ develop managers with these qualities.
- By understanding staff 'dis-satisfiers', pre-emptive action can be taken before this has a major impact on teachers' working lives, with the associated consequences such as high stress levels, absenteeism, low morale and ultimately poor performance/ high staff turnover.

Because the survey is hosted on the Schoolzone server and automated, schools can rerun the survey as often as they wish. This would enable them to monitor the impact of a specific initiative, change in leadership, or wave of training over a short period of time.

We're looking for schools who would be interested in working with us in developing this tool. Not only will you be involved in relevant, valuable 'action research', but you'll be given free access to this once it has been launched.

If you would like to take part in trialling this service, please email me at [Melissa@schoolzone.co.uk](mailto:Melissa@schoolzone.co.uk). In keeping with the subject of this editorial, our poll this month is 'I agree that, overall, teaching is a great job'. Cast your vote and let us know what you think....

Emails to me, please!

## Registered Users

Welcome to the start of the new school year. We are always trying to find new ways to support you, by evaluating products and resources, reporting news in education and conducting research.

We ask all our community members to ensure their details are up-to-date. Managing your details allows you to receive mailers, access new product listings, and gives you the chance to take part in paid research. To become a registered user or update your current details, go to:

<http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/register/register.asp>



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## free resources & opportunities

### Add your own comments to the UK's best educational search engine

Make the best even better. Our webguide of 50,000 education websites is now open to registered users to add your own comments about each entry. Just follow the link in the results then click on the 'Add a Review' link at the top of the page.

### Schoolzone's Teaching Recruitment Site!

This is an exciting opportunity for schools to advertise teaching jobs by registering with AllTeachingJobs.co.uk.

For just £40 per year plus VAT, schools can instantly add, edit and manage all school vacancies for an entire year.

Alternatively, if you are seeking employment, see our listing of current jobs, which are delineated by region, subject or sector.

In addition, Schoolzone is offering a job alert service. All you need to do is register an email address and your job search preferences to receive this updated information every day.

Take a look at **Schoolzone jobs** today:  
<http://www.schoolzone.allteachingjobs.co.uk/>

Contact Carmen Frowd,  
[carmen@schoolzone.co.uk](mailto:carmen@schoolzone.co.uk) or call 01242 262906  
for more information.

### interact Schoolzone interact

Schoolzone Interact currently has 3043 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](http://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.

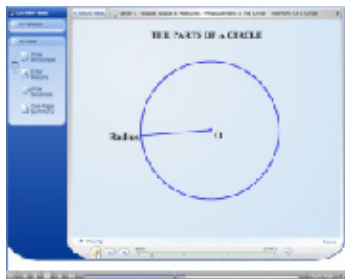
#### Interact feedback:

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."*

### 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 maths resource:



#### Conquer Maths

Conquer Maths is an online Maths support system that consists of 480 multimedia tutorials across level 1 and level 2, along with a selection of activities which are marked online. Check out the Virtual Tour area for further examples covering all subjects and key stages.

<http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/evaluations/virtualtours.asp>

### Don't forget ... to have your say

Last month we asked our website users the following question...



#### Is it time to scrap SAT's?

Of the respondents, 92 voted YES and 54 said NO.

This month we ask:

#### I agree that, overall, teaching is a great job?

Please go to our News pages at <http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/community/news.asp?Action=search> to cast your vote or email your comments to the Editor: [melissa@schoolzone.co.uk](mailto:melissa@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](http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/eventsandtraining/index.asp)

For example:

Moodle for English Teachers

Date: Now - 7th November

Time: 10:00 -15:00

One day's training in the Moodle VLE with specific emphasis on its use in English (and also Media Studies) teaching offered every alternate Friday. Full details here: <http://vle.olchs.lancs.sch.uk/mod/book/view.php>

Email: [mco@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:mco@olchs.lancs.sch.uk)

Telephone: 01772 326 900

Further details on the website.