

SUNDERLAND City Learning Centres

update

summer 08

Since our opening in 2002 the staff at Sunderland's two City Learning Centres have worked to develop a flagship resource offering the very best teaching and learning opportunities to schools across the City.

That doesn't just mean working with students either. We have been at the forefront of working with teachers to provide ideas, opportunities for CPD and technical support for teachers who want to use ICT to help make their lessons more engaging.

We have also acted as test beds for the use of innovative technology and have been constantly striving to find ways to raise standards of teaching and learning using ICT.

Carrying innovation as one of the core aspects of our remit has meant that we are not strangers to change. Indeed it is part of what we are about, and if you visit the centres regularly you will most certainly have seen this in the recent refurbishments. Our aim has always been to challenge what a traditional learning environment looks and feels like and to look at more innovative approaches to delivering teaching and learning for the next century.

EIC, of which the CLCs were an integral part, came to an end and we were recently consulted on the best way forward. The result of this consultation is that we have secured funding for another three years. This is great news and we are all very excited at having the opportunity to maintain the great partnerships we have developed as well as creating new ones.

From April 2008 the role of the CLCs changed. You may have already noticed that we are working a little differently because your school was not offered its usual allocation of time and we have not been taking any of our traditional planned activity bookings.

So what will the changes mean to schools?

This will mean that a greater number of schools will benefit from the expertise of the CLCs. The CLC experience was never to be a standalone experience where we present lessons that couldn't be repeated or developed in school. It was always our aim to give teachers the confidence and skills required to replicate what we do more widely.

Our main aim in the coming years is to spread what we do more strategically. We have a major role to play as part of the new Education Improvement Partnership and are key contributors to the new 14-19 Diplomas in IT and Creative & Media.

We have always worked in partnership with other organisations such as City of Sunderland College, Sunderland University, Apple, Connexions and the BBC to name but a few. We intend to continue working with our existing partners as well as looking to extend partnerships for the future. This will have far-reaching benefits for all learners in the City, opening doors to a huge range of opportunities.

Curriculum reform brings with it the need for CPD, we are constantly looking for opportunities to empower teachers. Attached is our CPD programme that offers a wide range of training to enhance teaching and learning in every classroom.

We have introduced Themed weeks in the CLC which will ensure we cover the breadth and depth of key ICT issues such as Control, Multimedia Authoring, Video Editing etc.

Our pledge to you is that we will still be here to give you the support you need with the friendly face we know you value us for. We remain committed to giving you and your students the very best experience of teaching and learning we can.

did you know?

We are still taking bookings. Rather than offering your school inflexible weeks or two day blocks of time we are aiming to be more flexible and will consider each booking on an individual basis.

You may choose six short sessions spread out over a term or a full day to launch or consolidate a project. CLC staff will be on hand to assist but our aim is to give teachers the skills to take the CLC experience to a wider audience. This will hopefully facilitate greater opportunities for outreach through the use of video conferencing and online learning. We are also happy to work with you in developing your skills to deliver some of our 'out of the box' activities or develop your own ideas.

We will be sending regular updates of all of the exciting developments at the CLCs including how our new, more flexible approach to bookings enhances the support we offer to schools.

more at sunderlandclc.org.uk