



Newsletter No 1

From The Chairman

Welcome to the first of our new newsletters. I'm Stephen Page, Chairman and Founder of the NEW School Councils. Our aim is to keep you up to speed with what's happening in School Councils' world. So expect more from us!

When School Councils experienced financial difficulties in 2009 it fell to me to prevent School Councils from going out of existence. As Chairman and founder of the **NEW** School Councils UK, my task was to turn the situation round – an immense amount of hard work has gone into this by my team and I am grateful to them.

The shop is running, training is going on, schools are networking and dialogue is taking place with government. At the moment we are working away particularly at the infrastructure of the organisation, data, on systems and so on. School Councils Foundation, the charity arm of SCUUK, has made an appeal for the children of Haiti, which received a wonderful response. Thank you!! The work goes on. You can still [donate now](#). A follow-up email will put you more in the picture.

When we set off down this road, we asked ourselves what was it that we most wanted to achieve. We decided that it is to encourage people to ... **listen with respect**. To each other, to young people, to adults, to people of a different colour, religious or ethnic background, to all groups of society in fact. The only way to persuade young people to listen with respect is to lead by example. So that is our task. To lead by example, through democracy – student democracy, as some call it. This is our core function. If young people believe that they are being listened to, they will listen in turn. As a father of two boys I can say (tongue in cheek), "Won't that be wonderful?"

We will be joined by other strategic partners. It is premature to name names at the moment but announcements will follow in due course. Those partners will share the underlying beliefs in what School Councils can bring to the world and they will make their own contribution. We have it in mind to widen the view of School Councils, and have a much more up-tempo and free-ranging take on life.

It's a long, long journey we're embarked on. Rome wasn't built in a day and we need your help.

Come and journey with us! Contact me [here](#).

Membership and Resources

Some of you may have noticed that we are making changes to the structure of the Membership Network. Instead of Basic or Full Membership, we are now offering Bronze, Silver or Gold. Bronze is the former Basic Level and Silver is the former Full Level. Gold is an exciting and completely new Level!

Gold offers the ultimate Membership Package. Not only do you receive all the benefits of the Silver Membership (resource welcome pack, myschoolcouncil.org website and 15% discount on items from the shop, etc), but you are also entitled to your own personalised Student Democracy Audit.

We will visit your school and spend about half a day auditing your policies and procedures on Student Democracy, Pupil Voice and Citizenship and how these tie in with PSHE and Healthy Schools. We will look at the structure of your School Council and talk to your Council Link Teacher and Councillors. You will then receive your personalised report which will identify your areas of strength and your weaknesses. We will help you to target your weaknesses and show you how to achieve excellence. All of which will be invaluable in preparing your SEF. Simple really.

Just be in touch and take the leap forward.

For membership details and all School Councils resources please do visit our shop at www.schoolcouncilshop.org

School Councils Foundation Perspective

As well as finding out all there is to know about School Councils UK, we will also keep you informed about what School Council Foundation is doing.

Simply, the Foundation is the charitable arm of SCUK. We will be working with various voluntary, statutory and commercial organisations to ensure that our vision to support young people and those working with young people is delivered. For more information about the Foundation, our vision and our partners please read on....and don't forget to look at the competition being launched by **Quebicle**, one of our commercial partners.....



As innovative organizations, both Quebicle and School Councils Foundation believe it is important that the voices of children and young people are heard. In partnership with School Councils Foundation, Quebicle is now embarking on a journey to encourage children to have a say in the design of their own school surroundings.

Quebicle is leading the way in the design and installation of themed washrooms for schools, nurseries and colleges. We have a unique approach to washroom design, allowing schools to actively involve their pupils in the conceptual design stage of each project, resulting in the creation of a washroom with its own unique identity. This approach to washroom design promotes respect and communicates the schools commitment to the welfare and wellbeing of their pupils. Most importantly it shows that the ideas and opinions of the pupils really do matter and demonstrates to pupils that can make a positive change within their school environment.

Allowing pupils to have a key role in the design process ensures we provide **school toilet** facilities that pupils actively want to use. In addition to this we are committed to designing and installing toilet facilities which reach the optimum standards for practical use, hygiene and health and safety. Our intelligent design ensures **long term durability** and careful product selection of energy and water saving devices guarantees our washrooms are economical whilst still being kind to the environment.

WIN £100 for your school! Quebicle are inviting schools across the UK to get their pupils involved in designing their own creative washroom themes! The winning design will receive £100 for their school to spend as they wish. The overall winning design will also be incorporated into our range of standard themes for use in schools all over the UK!

There are 3 age categories; Under 7's, 7-11 and 11-16's. We are looking the most imaginative, fun and creative designs that are suitable for school toilets in either primary or secondary schools. Designs can be hand drawn or created on a computer. Once designs are complete pupils should upload their entries, along with their name, age and school name onto our online gallery at www.quebicle.co.uk. **Entries will be judged at the beginning of each month and names and details of winners will be announced on our website.**

For more information please visit our website: www.quebicle.co.uk or contact us through **School Councils Foundation**.

Healthy Schools

The Foundation has submitted a funding bid to Healthy Ambitions Suffolk to pilot an exciting new opportunity:

The creation, dissemination and analysis of a Suffolk focused interactive consultation programme with pupils in up to 356 Suffolk schools. The project aims to meet some of the emotional needs of the most vulnerable and most challenged groups within the county. The consultative survey is web based and age relevant, results will provide the perception data so useful to educationalists when assessing the outcomes of strategic plans against base line data.

For more information please contact the Foundation on 0845 456 9428

Haiti Appeal

To date the appeal has supported families through the provision of Aquaboxes; however, in order to develop long term intervention we are trying to establish partnerships with a range of relevant agencies. We will keep our supporters updated via this regular communication.

Watch this space....

Coming soonHygiene Audits...a must have!