

# Report

11

Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>16 March 2010</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Microsoft Partners in Learning - Pathfinder School (Microsoft Innovative Schools)</b>
----------	--

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update on progress in respect of Calderglen High School's participation in the Microsoft partners in Learning Programme.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the progress made by Calderglen High School, in the international Microsoft Partners in Learning Programme, designed to help develop and improve the experience of pupils, be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The successful worldwide Pathfinder Schools were announced on 15 September 2009. After a worldwide selection process, Calderglen High School was nominated by Microsoft to take part in the Worldwide Pathfinders in Learning Programme as one of 30 schools to work with Microsoft as part of the Pathfinders in Learning Programme. Only 1 other UK school is involved in the programme (Stirling High School). The Education Resources Committee on 7 July 2009 noted the involvement of Calderglen High School as a Pathfinder School in this programme.
- 3.2. The programme offered the chance for Calderglen High School to be part of a focussed 30 school global peer network, through participation in a Pathfinder School Forum in Brazil.
- 3.3. Participation in the programme enables Calderglen High School to be part of a global community of educational institutions that have ambitions for educational reform. The programme supports schools as they work together to develop a culture of innovation within their learning communities, collaborating with them to formulate their vision for change, and identifying partners, technologies and environments that will improve learning.
- 3.4. The Microsoft Programme provides the funding for travel, and facilitates schools access to expertise and resources. Benefits include access to worldwide education experts, monthly virtual meetings, and local and global attention as a leader in Microsoft's United Kingdom innovative schools community.

#### **4. Current Position**

- 4.1. Calderglen High School was given very positive feedback on its initial bid and reference was made to the school's work on the opportunities for learning created by the International Children's Games being held in Lanarkshire in 2011.
- 4.2. Recognising the school's support of transformational change, its approach to self-evaluation and the head teacher's description of the school as being "at the start of a journey", the school was selected to take part in this highly prestigious programme.
- 4.3. Calderglen High School is now actively working together with the other schools to develop innovative approaches to learning. Representatives from the schools met in November 2009 in Salvador, Brazil to initiate the programme and a series of 'virtual universities' are now taking place that help Pathfinder Schools share ideas and practices. The virtual universities are hosted by world renowned educationalists, such as Michael Fullen and Richard Delarenzo. All staff have also been offered professional development opportunities in coaching and mentoring, organised and provided by Microsoft.
- 4.4. Calderglen High School is currently developing their curriculum in line with Curriculum for Excellence. As part of the Pathfinders In Learning Programme, the school is currently making connections in learning within and outwith school hours. One aspect of the programme is the development of a Sports Hub and this is currently supported by agencies within South Lanarkshire Council and Sportscotland. The aim of the Sports Hub is to encourage young people to participate in physical activity and maximise existing opportunities within the community.
- 4.5. Residential activity and learning away also plays a role in the development of innovative approaches to learning and improving the school experience for pupils. Through a successful bid to the Paul Hamlyn Trust, schools within the Calderglen Learning Community now have increased opportunity to participate in residential activity. The support from the Paul Hamlyn Trust will enable pupils to access subsidised residential activity for the next 5 years.
- 4.6. Calderglen High School, with the support of Microsoft, will continue to work closely with the other Pathfinder schools for the next year to develop innovative approaches to learning, designed to help improve the experience of pupils within the school.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. Involvement in the programme is providing interesting and exciting opportunities for continuing professional development for the staff of the school.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no financial implications arising from the school's involvement in this programme.

#### **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. None

#### **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposal contained within this report.
- 8.2. Consultation in various forms took place with relevant stakeholders in preparing the initial bid.

**Larry Forde**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

24 February 2010

**Link(s) to Council Objectives**

- Raise educational attainment for all

**Previous References**

- Education Resources Committee – 7 July 2009

**List of Background Papers**

- Calderglen High School Pathfinders Bid 2009

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Anne Rooney, Head of Education (East Kilbride)

Ext: 5620 (Tel: 01698 455620)

E-mail: [anne.rooney@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:anne.rooney@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)