

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATION****COUNCILLOR DAVE HARLING****PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTOR:  
LISA BIBBY****DATE: 27 June 2013****SCHOOLS INSPECTION OUTCOMES**

Twenty three inspection reports have been published for schools within the Authority so far for the academic year 2012/13 (as at 23rd May 2013). Sixteen of these schools were judged to be good or better and seven were judged to require improvement. Of the twenty three inspections, fourteen have improved on their previous judgement, seven maintained their current judgement and two moved down to a lower judgement.

As at the end of December 2012, 78% of all schools within Blackburn with Darwen were judged to be good or better compared to 74% of schools throughout England. At the end of quarter 4 for 2012/13, the percentage of schools within Blackburn with Darwen judged to be good or better had risen to 81%; with 80% of children attending these schools.

During quarter 4 2012/13 there have been monitoring visits for all three of the schools deemed inadequate by Ofsted. As a result, two schools are no longer deemed inadequate and the third school was found to be making good progress in their first monitoring visit since their last school inspection, where the school which was previously in special measures and judged inadequate was issued with a notice to improve (one sub-category above).

We currently have 1 school judged inadequate however this school is due to close in August 2013.

**BIG AND MINI SING DAYS 2013**

King George's Hall was filled with family and parents of children who participated in 'The Big Sing' two day event on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June. 31 primary schools and 3 secondary schools participated giving a total of around 1000 children. During the day's workshops, the children rehearsed together the songs that they had been learning in school whilst being led by vocal specialists. They were also taught brand new songs on the day which were performed that evening. Jeff Borradaile and Blackburn People's Choir have been long standing supporters of the event and once again performed.

The 'Mini Sing' on 12<sup>th</sup> June, was a similar event for infant children only, which was also held at King Georges Hall. 18 primary and infant schools took part which involved a half day workshop, led by Music Service vocal staff, followed by a concert in the evening. The concert featured the Music Service's Primary Choir and soloists from schools in the borough. The soloists are all children

who receive peripatetic music lessons in school delivered by the Authority's Music Service.

## **HEADTEACHER RETIREMENTS**

Each year we see a number of Headteachers leave our schools for retirement, some moving on to pastures new, many taking the opportunity to enjoy a relaxing break. This year seven of our Headteachers are moving on to retirement; Elaine Smith from St Matthews, Fran Stevenson from Meadowhead Juniors, Sally Felton from Audley Infants, Margaret Nowell from St Thomas', Linda Mclanachan from Intack Primary, Alan Chambers from Blackburn Central and David Whyte from St Wilfrid's.

These Headteachers have dedicated their career to improving outcomes for the children and young people in the Borough. Their continuous commitment to pupils, parents and to the Blackburn with Darwen Community has been much appreciated.

Alongside our fantastic Headteachers there are many teachers also retiring this year. Amongst them is Brenda Walmsley, a teacher at Daisyfield Primary school who is retiring on 31st August 2013. Her career has been dedicated to the children, staff and parents of the school for 40 years. An infant specialist, Brenda has, over the years, taken responsibility for numerous roles, including English and RE. She contributed to establishing excellent home and school links and for many years organised family literacy, lending libraries for reading cassettes and maths games. Brenda has taught different generations of the same families and will have seen the local community develop and grow over the last 40 years. Brenda has provided an exceptional level of service to the community of Daisyfield Primary school.

## **SCHOOL ORGANISATION UPDATE**

The Education Improvement Partnership's application to establish The Eden Free School for Social, Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar Schools' application to become a Free School have both been successful and are due to open September 2014. The recent application from the Governing Body of Witton Park High School to become an Academy has been accepted.

I look forward to working closely in a partnership with all schools and their staff in the future, to continue to improve the achievements of pupils living in the borough. Amongst the many issues that need to be tackled is the problems caused by the over-provision of school places resulting from the governments education reforms.

*CA*