

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

COUNCILLOR DAVE HARLING

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: LINDA CLEGG
DATE: 23rd April 2015**

MY FIRST JOB RECRUITMENT FAIR

The Young People's Learning Service engaged employers for a key recruitment event for young people aged 15-24 at Blackburn Leisure Centre. The event, which was held on 5 March, was attended by over 400 young people looking for opportunities. Colleagues from Regeneration, The Via Partnership and Blackburn College were involved in the steering group managing the event.

Over 30 employers with apprenticeships and jobs available now and for school and college leavers in the summer exhibited at the event. The council also exhibited with 7 current live apprenticeship vacancies and 20 more planned for the summer.

ALFIE BOE - NEW MUSIC EDUCATION HUB PATRON

The Music Education Hub, of which the Music Service is the lead organisation, is delighted that Alfie Boe, International Opera Star, will be Hub Patron and Music Champion for the next two years. Alfie, who was born and raised in Lancashire, has toured with many of the world's top Opera Companies and won many accolades including the prestigious Tony theatre award.

As well as being a role model for children and young people in the borough, Mr Boe will speak on behalf of the Hub on music education issues to further strengthen the profile of the hub, both regionally, nationally and internationally.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL 2015

The Music Service's 10th Schools Celebration of Dance took place on the 3rd and 4th March at King George's Hall to great acclaim. 44 schools took part with over 1100 pupils performing to an audience of 2000 family and friends.

The fantastic event was an uplifting experience for all involved and both nights featured quality performances from schools across the borough. The theme this year was 'technology' which generated many learning opportunities with dances, artwork and costumes all inspired by technology. The enthusiasm of the children made for a memorable event which showcased the talents of the children, young people in the borough.

PUPIL PREMIUM AWARDS SUCCESS

St Bede's and Tauheedul Islam Girls School have both won £5000 in the Key Stage 4 category of the Department for Education 'Pupil Premium Awards'. The schools have been invited to apply for a larger prize of £250,000 due to the excellent progress of their disadvantaged pupils in their end of Key Stage tests.

Final prizes were awarded at a ceremony hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister on 25th March, with St Bede's being one of the regional runners up.

Disadvantaged pupils in both schools have made at least expected progress and achieved results above the national average. This success is testament to the hard work and commitment of staff, pupils and families at the schools.

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

Since the previous Council Forum, six inspection reports have been published for schools within the Authority. Both Turton and Edgworth CE/Methodist Primary School and St Stephen's CE Primary School were judged to be 'good'. St Stephen's Tockholes CE Primary School, Meadowhead Infant School and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour RC Primary School were judged to 'require improvement'. Pleckgate High School were also re-inspected and have moved from Inadequate to requires improvement, with further improvement expected quickly.

Since the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year, 15 inspection reports have been published for schools within the authority. Of the 15 inspections, 11 schools have been judged to be good or better with the remaining 4 schools, all judged to 'require improvement' to be good and no schools being judged as inadequate. 9 schools have maintained their good or better judgement, with a further 2 schools either receiving a better judgement of good or being judged good in their first inspection.