

Dear Colleagues

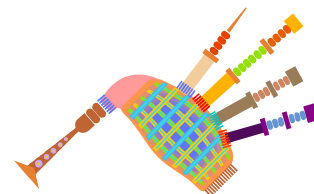
## Re: Homecoming Scotland 2009



A thank you to those establishments who have returned their pro forma, sharing with us their events and activities celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns and their plans to contribute to the Scottish Government's Homecoming initiative through Curriculum for Excellence. It is also encouraging to see that a number of our schools have posted their events on Learning and Teaching Scotland Homecoming page and have shared their plans through the interactive map of Scotland. If you have not yet registered your activities and events with Learning and Teaching Scotland we would encourage you to do so. We also hope that establishments will become involved in the opportunities offered to develop the Scottish vein of Curriculum for Excellence through the Learning and Teaching and Scottish Government web area [www.ltscotland.org.uk/homecoming](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/homecoming)

As a result of my earlier letter to establishments we have now created a Homecoming Scotland group and the minutes of its meeting will be available through Fish. The group discussed in some depth how establishments can use the Homecoming initiative to develop exemplification of the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence related to Scotland, Scotland's place in and contribution to the world. The Homecoming Scotland group made the following suggestions for schools to consider:

- We would encourage all establishments to develop activities and events to ensure Homecoming Scotland is not only a resounding success in Fife, but something which will leave a vital and beneficial legacy for young people in Fife in years to come and provide a platform for excellence in learning. The Scotland theme provides schools with the opportunity for experiencing the curriculum through the ethos and life of the school, curriculum areas and subjects, interdisciplinary learning and opportunities for personal achievement. All establishments are encouraged to hold an event in school which will allow parents and the community to share in their work e.g. open day, a Scottish theme week involving pupils, parents etc...
- In addition between January—November 2009 we would like all clusters across Fife to consider a cluster event which could include a transition activity around the Homecoming initiative.
- We are also in communication with the visiting teachers service and are encouraging them to contribute to a school theme, storyline, rich task or develop an expressive arts topic of their own e.g. Scottish music theme, Scottish artists etc...
- We are planning this year to bring forward to November 2009 our highly successful Scottish Dance Festival as a way of celebrating the end of the Homecoming initiative.
- The Burns competition is taking place on 31st March 2009 and a record number of schools have expressed an interest.
- Our Homecoming music representatives Sandra Taylor (Youth Music Initiative Development Officer) and Graeme Wilson (Music Services Manager) will during this year encourage groups of pupils to share their music performances with 'new friends' from other schools. Two nearby schools could share their talents and staff to celebrate together and Sandra Taylor will support clusters. Instrumental instructors for local Secondary schools are eager to be involved in cluster music initiatives to celebrate the Homecoming initiative and for pupils to share their talents with others. Graeme Wilson is willing to support schools wishing to hold musical festivals at school and cluster level. Schools wanting to be involved in joint cluster youth music initiative should contact Sandra Taylor directly on VOIP 441935. Peter Wright and Graeme Wilson are also looking for schools to help to create a Fife Homecoming dance with pupils involved in inventing a dance and an accompanying tune. Graeme and Peter are hoping to coordinate a video link to allow schools to share a coordinated rendition of their performances. If you are interested please contact Graeme Wilson VOIP 441942 or Peter Wright VOIP 441936.



Finally we are now making plans which will allow schools to share their very good and excellent practice through our e-learning facilities:

- A Fife wide interactive map will be available on Fish by Easter 09 allowing schools to add and up date their events and activities.
- Through this interactive map schools will be able to showcase their work using video clips, radio waves, photo-shop, DVD and Power point. Jim Birney (ICT Advisor) and his team will shortly be sending details to schools of how they can use this e-sharing facility within Fish.

The next meeting of the Homecoming group will discuss how we can plan a number of local and Fife wide events and your ideas are most welcome. Please continue to let us know of your plans and participation in national events led by Learning and Teaching Scotland. If you would like to showcase your work for Learning and Teaching Scotland please contact Kay Livingston on 0141 282 5095 and outline your project (Kay Livingston LTS Homecoming Development Officer).

We have also listed below a number of ideas being suggested by schools for the Homecoming Scotland Year.

- Interdisciplinary learning, rich tasks, cross cutting themes, storyline around Scottish inventors, pioneers and famous Scot's.
- A Joyning the Learning experience for primary pupils— who are the Scots?
- Designing a Homecoming tartan for Fife Scotland
- Local music festivals
- A Scottish storyline for early years based on a Scottish story.
- A mathematics based theme—Scots contribution to mathematics.
- Placebook Scotland (LTS website)
- Scottish food week at Auchterderran Centre, Café Derran
- Scottish poetry, authors etc...
- A cluster Highland games
- Poetry competition using Scots language
- The Burns interactive map
- The Scottish Learning Festival—(showcase staff for Fife)
- E-cards—Learning and Teaching website
- Making use of the new Fife interactive map
- A Scot's quiz similar to the European quiz
- Global Citizenship
- Schools linking with communities around a Scottish theme.
- Links to communities

