



Baccalaureate Support Event Report

Introduction

A support event was held on 30 September 2009 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow. This event was aimed primarily at centres delivering the Baccalaureates in Science and Languages this session, but also at those planning to deliver in the future. One hundred and twenty-seven delegates attended the event from 85 centres but there was also representation from local authorities and the higher education sector.

The event was introduced by Robert Quinn, Head of Humanities and Social Subjects, who welcomed the delegates and gave information on the background to the event, the workshops and their presenters. Robert then introduced Lorna Grant, the newly-appointed Baccalaureate Development Manager.

Lorna gave an update on the Baccalaureates, informing delegates that around 65 centres are delivering the awards this session with many more planning to come on board next session, which is extremely encouraging. Already several partnerships have formed between schools and colleges; schools and universities; and schools, colleges and universities. A number of networks between schools to share ideas and work together on quality assurance have been established. There are also examples of collaboration between Science and Languages staff as well as support from staff from other disciplines. The pupils themselves are working together, sharing contacts, information and ideas. Some really excellent work is taking place which is giving learners a really rich learning experience along with first-class preparation for further study or employment. Lorna also spoke about her role which is primarily to support centres through visits, responding to questions, sharing ideas and good practice, and promoting the Baccalaureates to ensure their sustainability.

Workshop sessions

Delegates then moved on to the workshop sessions. Workshop one, 'Getting Started', was co-presented by Alison Smart from St Modan's High School in Stirling and Hannah Doughty from Scottish CILT. This provided invaluable information on attracting pupils to the award, facilitating the development of the generic skills by enlisting the help of colleagues or parents to provide tutorial help for pupils, and giving advice at the proposal stage of the project. Alison showed a presentation she had given to pupils at the recruitment stage which highlighted the benefits of the Baccalaureate. Hannah discussed some of the early concerns expressed by colleagues last session and how

these had been resolved. She gave details of Scottish CILT's plans to support centres delivering the Languages Baccalaureate.

Workshop two, 'Partnership Working', was co-presented by Lesley Balfour from Abertay University, Tracey Stewart from Dundee Educational Development Service, and was supported by two Baccalaureate candidates. Abertay University is working in partnership with Dundee Council and six schools to deliver the Science Baccalaureate. Pupils undertake the Interdisciplinary Project (IP) with the support of both their schools and the university. Based on the project topic each pupil is allocated a tutor at the university and has access to resources, equipment and expertise. The IP will be jointly assessed by school and university. Information was given on the background to the partnership, the process of delivering the IP, and the mutual benefits of this method of delivery. (More information on this partnership can be found on the Baccalaureate pages of the website.)

Workshop three, 'Project Management', was presented by Iain Walker from Perth College. Iain used his considerable experience of delivering process-based projects on Higher National programmes in further education and gave invaluable advice on project management and how to support learners undertaking the IP from the proposal stage through to evaluation.

Demonstrations and feedback

During the lunch break, demonstrations were provided by the Goethe-Institut of their online course to support the Baccalaureate and by SQA of the PebblePad e-portfolio available to Baccalaureate candidates.

There was time for delegates to network and share experiences and ideas, and the feedback from the event was extremely positive. Of the delegates who completed evaluation forms, most were satisfied or very satisfied with the event and the majority felt the content was relevant and that expectations had been met. A number of delegates commented that the day was interesting, practical and informative, and had provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the Baccalaureates and network with colleagues.