

This newsletter and the Secondary Student Achievement Professional Learning and Development initiative is funded by the Ministry of Education. The providers are The University of Auckland and Te Tapuae o Rehua consortium.

# National Newsletter: Social Sciences

Information and resources for middle leaders in secondary schools | Term 2 2013

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Talofa ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Ni sa bula, Greetings

Already we're into term 2 and winter seems to have hit us quickly! I hope that you managed to get some rest and relaxation in the holidays, ready for yet another busy term ahead of you.

It was great to meet so many of you while travelling throughout regions to facilitate 'Leading Learning in the Social Sciences' for middle leaders. These workshops focused on successful middle leadership that works and why; a teaching as inquiry approach to middle leadership; and effectively leading change to make a positive difference for our students – particularly our priority students – Māori, Pasifika and those with special education needs.

The resources from these days are on our wikispace – please take the time to read through the presentation materials and the various resources so you are familiar with the key messages:

<http://secondarysocialscience.wikispaces.com/>

Please take the time to read this newsletter and share it amongst your colleagues.

If you would like any additional information or wish to give any feedback in regards to this communication please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nga mihi

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## National workshops continue this term

These free workshops are fully funded by the Ministry of Education and delivered as part of our work in the Secondary Student Achievement professional development. They will be supporting NCEA alignment and the teaching and learning at curriculum levels 6-8.

They are to support teachers to raise achievement for all students, and particularly for Māori students, Pasifika students and those with special education needs.

These workshops will take place throughout terms 2 and 3 so please look out for the advertising of these through your regional facilitators.

## What's new?

### NZ Social Sciences Conference



### Inclusive and Sustainable: Social Sciences Shaping the Future

Date: 15-17 July 2013  
Venue: Hamilton Girls' High, Centre of Creativity and Performance

Further details can also be found at:  
<http://www.soccon.net.nz/>

### Social Sciences wikispace

This is a very popular site being used by many of you. We are continually adding to the space. There are plenty of resources, key websites, and any other information to share from workshops, clusters and in-depth work. Please ensure that you add this wikispace to your favourites and visit it regularly – especially when you are preparing for your department/faculty meetings.

<http://secondarysocialscience.wikispaces.com/>

### BES exemplars

The BES exemplars focus on how to make a much bigger difference in education. Each exemplar has been selected because it illuminates highly effective teaching approaches that accelerate progress for diverse (all) learners in areas where improvement is needed. The five exemplars are available free for schools and teacher educators in New Zealand. Orders of these can be made by contacting [orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz](mailto:orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz)

## Building Success in the Social Sciences



### Inquiring into your own practice

Effective Social Science teachers inquire into the teaching-learning relationship; they think about how they are teaching and whether it is working. This can be moment by moment as teaching takes place, day to day, or over a longer term as it occurs when using a teaching as inquiry approach.

As you inquire into your own teaching it may be useful to look at the Senior Social Studies curriculum guide for concise yet supportive ideas around Teaching as Inquiry. This area of the curriculum guide will guide and give examples of useful questions to ask yourself when inquiring into your practice. Although it is part of the Senior Social Studies learning area, it is applicable to anyone, in any learning area:

<http://seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz/index.php/Social-sciences/Senior-social-studies/Pedagogy/Teaching-as-inquiry>

To support your inquiry, take a look at the seven learning stories which illustrate parts of the learning journeys of seven teachers. Each teacher grappled with the concepts of collaborative inquiry, cultural responsiveness, and pedagogical content knowledge and with how they could better enable their Māori and Pasifika students to achieve success:

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-stories/Case-studies/Teachers-as-learners-Inquiry/Learning-stories>

### Media gallery - Social Science middle leaders share

The media gallery on TKI has many useful videos of teachers explaining what has been useful and supportive for their learners. Here is a snapshot of two Social Science middle leaders talking about what has been successful for them.

Andrew Savage, HOD History at Wellington College, discusses how his department decided to place ideas at the centre of their courses. Andrew explains that history is a contested topic and there are multiple ways of understanding the past. Therefore, they engage students with rich questions that offer no answers, incorporate complex ideas, and ask the students to make decisions based on investigating the past and their own interpretations of the past.

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Secondary-middle-leaders/Media-gallery/Supporting-effective-teaching/Rich-questions>

Andrew also discusses ways that he encourages his students to be partners in their learning. Andrew fosters an environment of questioning and inquiry, and provides examples about exploring the Treaty of Waitangi to help students connect with, and have deeper understandings of, the issues around this topic.

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Secondary-middle-leaders/Media-gallery/Students-first/Learning-partnership>

## Have you seen.....?

### A Summary: Effective pedagogy in Social Sciences

A summary of the Best Evidence Synthesis in Social Science, summarizing research on teaching that has shown to make a positive effect on student outcomes. A great resource to begin some useful discussions with your colleagues. You can order this summary from [orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz](mailto:orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz)

### Evaluation at a Glance: Priority learners in NZ schools

ERO identifies 3 key issues that need to be addressed to lift the achievement of students. The three issues look at shifting the focus to student-centered learning; knowledgeably implementing a responsive and rich curriculum; and using assessment information to know about, and plan for, students' learning.

[www.ero.govt.nz/National-Reports/Evaluation-at-a-Glance-Priority-Learners-in-New-Zealand-Schools-August-2012](http://www.ero.govt.nz/National-Reports/Evaluation-at-a-Glance-Priority-Learners-in-New-Zealand-Schools-August-2012)

### Middle leader support

The Educational Leaders website is full of useful resources, news, and discussions which focus on supporting you in your leadership work.

<http://www.educationalleaders.govt.nz/Middle-and-senior-leaders>

### Secondary education portal

A wide range of information, resources and guidance, to support secondary teaching and learning.

<http://secondary.tki.org.nz/>

### NZQA subject resource pages

These pages provide subject specific resources including moderation newsletters, resources for internally and externally assessed standards, and scholarship resources.

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/>

### University Entrance identified standards

This lists the NCEA L2-3 achievement standards that can contribute to the new UE literacy requirements.

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/awards/university-entrance/literacy-requirements-for-university-entrance-from-2014/>

## Media gallery (continued from previous page)

Paul Enright, head of Social Sciences at Logan Park High School in Dunedin, explains that he found the New Zealand Curriculum allowed freedom to experiment. Paul explains the development of a place based curriculum at his school.

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Secondary-middle-leaders/Media-gallery/Curriculum-design-and-review/Place-based-curriculum>

## Building Success for priority learners

### Pasifika Education Plan 2013-2017

This plan is aimed at raising Pasifika learners' participation, engagement and achievement in education, secure in their identities, languages and cultures. This can be downloaded at The Ministry of Education website or to order a printed copy please email [PasifikaUnit@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:PasifikaUnit@minedu.govt.nz)

### Effective teaching for Pasifika learners

Research highlights aspects of teaching that help lift the achievement of Pasifika students. Effective schools have high quality teaching practices. These practices motivate, challenge and are responsive to Pasifika learners. They are shaped by strong, mutually respectful teacher-student relationships.

This site provides links to student-focused information and resources to support effective teaching for Pasifika students:

<http://pasifika.tki.org.nz/Effective-teaching>

### Building further success

The following Ministry of Education resources are useful to read and will support you to build success for your students. These are a great discussion starter for your department meetings. An important question to ask yourselves – what does success look like at your school? How can you support and build on this success?

Supporting education success as Māori

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Boards/EffectiveGovernance/PublicationsAndResources/SupportingEducationSuccessAsMaori.aspx>

Supporting Pasifika success

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Boards/EffectiveGovernance/PublicationsAndResources/SupportingPasifikaSuccess.aspx>

Building inclusive schools

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Boards/EffectiveGovernance/PublicationsAndResources/BuildingInclusiveSchools.aspx>

## NZQA's Moderation Best Practice workshops

These workshops are delivered by NZQA and will:

- Clarify your understanding of grade boundaries for internally assessed standards.
- Work with supplied assessment materials including samples of student work at all levels.
- Engage in professional discussion with colleagues and the National Moderator.

There is a cost for these NZQA workshops. For further details please visit the NZQA site:

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/events/best-practice-workshops/>

## National contact details for Social Sciences

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## Previous Social Science newsletters

Looking for previous newsletters?

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Secondary-middle-leaders/Professional-learning-and-development/E-newsletters/National-newsletters-2013>