

Date: 18 June 2020
Circular No. 2020-06-25A

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS 2020/21

CREATIVE LEARNING | BLENDED LEARNING | ONLINE LEARNING

Dear Principal

As we reach the end of another school year, we'd like to offer an update on the opportunities to work with AmmA in 2020/21. We appreciate that challenges still lie ahead for schools in the next academic year and we wish to offer assurance that our approach will be flexible and optimised so that it is compatible with the priorities of your students and teachers.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Creative Learning Centres have surveyed schools across the region and we understand the challenges that exist in shifting pedagogical practice towards 'Blended Learning' and how this might differ from school to school.

In supporting schools next year, we are committed to supporting 'Blended Learning' in adherence to the guidance issued by the Department of Education, the Education Authority and C2K**. We look forward to supporting schools in meeting this challenge and are excited about the opportunity to redefine our Creative Learning activities and make them available to as many children and young people as possible. We are also committed to tailoring our Teaching Professional Learning programme to help advance the skills and bolster the confidence of our education community in adapting to the new norms of teaching & learning.

In working with us, you will have opportunities to share in the development & dissemination of best practice, to engage within professional learning communities and to access resources and materials that support your 'Blended Learning' journey.

What is on offer from AmmA in 2020/21?

- ▶ **Partnership Schools 2020/21:** We have made a decision not to recruit a new intake of partnership schools. Instead, we are asking interested schools to complete an expression of interest form and we will commit all of our spare capacity in helping schools on their 'Blended Learning' journey and in introducing creativity and STEM learning into this provision. Visit bit.ly/AmmALearning to register your interest in availing of this support.
- ▶ **Partnership Schools 2019/20:** As a result of the Covid-19 crisis, many of our partnership programmes have been interrupted. A member of our team will make contact with you shortly to discuss how schemes of work can be evolved and adapted to ensure there is no loss of opportunity for your teachers and students.
- ▶ **Teacher Professional Learning:** In collaboration with Nerve Centre and Nerve Belfast, we have already piloted and evaluated a diverse programme of online TPL workshops. These are designed to be flexible and appropriately resourced so that they are instantly applicable to your classroom. An expanded programme will be announced in August. Furthermore, to support

INSET requirements of schools, we will offer these to individual schools on a whole staff basis throughout the academic year. Subscribe to our mailing list to stay informed: bit.ly/ammammasubscribe

- ▶ **Shared Education Partnerships:** Whilst 2020/21 has been earmarked as a transitional year for shared education partners, we are working with the EA Shared Education team to identify opportunities for teacher learning and planning. For partnerships that wish to continue working together in an online capacity, please contact us using the link and we will explore opportunities to support this. bit.ly/AmmASupport
- ▶ **Ongoing Support Requests:** We are continuing to accept support requests from schools. If there are specific areas that you need support in or if you have a project or training opportunity that could benefit from some external facilitation or guidance, please get in touch via this 'Support Request Form' and we will respond to you in due course. bit.ly/AmmASupport

In the meantime, we wish you well on your summer break and look forward to working with you in the year ahead and please feel free to get in touch with us at any time as you prepare for the new school year.

Best Wishes

AmmA Creative Learning

RESOURCES / CIRCULARS: **

Curriculum Planning 2020/21

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/circular-202006-curriculum-planning-202021>

Moving to Blended Learning in the Primary School

<https://sway.office.com/fGiPRZ9erLTnXDhy>

Moving to Blended Learning in the Post Primary School

<https://sway.office.com/JbEgePVXEFWEpqh>

Feedback and Assessment in the Post Primary

<https://sway.office.com/fltBhbSWB2SGouzi>

