

12 December 2011

To: the Principals of Primary and Special Schools

Dear Colleague

### Computer - Based Assessment in Primary Schools

In November you received information on arrangements for this term's InCAS assessments. At that time we also told you that, with the contract with CEM (University of Durham) coming to an end, two new providers have been identified for numeracy and literacy computer-based assessments. You can read more about this on [www.nicurriculum.org.uk](http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk).

### InCAS contract comes to an end 19 January – important information

The contract with CEM ends on **19 January 2012**. Please note that from this date your school will **no longer** be:

- able to access InCAS computer-based assessments on your C2k networked computers;
- provided with InCAS free of charge by the Department of Education; and
- able to access many of the support materials provided to you by CCEA on [www.nicurriculum.org.uk](http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk). This includes the Inky Pupil Demo.

We advise you that before the 19 January **you should ensure** that:

- any optional assessments that you wish your pupils to do are completed and uploaded;
- existing pupil outcomes are downloaded and saved somewhere convenient for future ease of access;
- any of the web resources provided by CCEA to support the use of InCAS that you may wish to keep for future use are downloaded and saved.

If you wish to purchase InCAS assessments for use in your school you can do so by contacting Anne Rafferty at CEM directly on 0191 3344 181 or by emailing [Anne.Rafferty@cem.dur.ac.uk](mailto:Anne.Rafferty@cem.dur.ac.uk).

Many existing web resources will remain on the NI Curriculum site. In the coming months we will be transforming this area of the web site to reflect the development and implementation of the new computer-based assessments **Introducing the new Computer -Based Assessments 2012-2013**.

Over the last 5 years CCEA and primary schools have built up considerable expertise in the use of InCAS. With the continued support of schools we are confident that we can manage a smooth transition to the introduction of the newly procured computer-based assessments.

In January we will be writing to you to provide more detail of the training and support available throughout the coming year. In summary the arrangements will be:

- trialling and evaluation of the new assessments prior to implementation;
- Principals' Information Sessions; and
- on-line training for Year 4-7 teachers.

Please be assured that you and your teachers will be working with the same CCEA team as before and that we will continue to provide you with regular information and details of the support available to you.

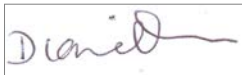
The Computer-Based Assessment Helpdesk will continue to operate on (028) 9026 1274 to support you and your staff and to answer any queries which may arise.

For your ease of reference a copy of this letter will be uploaded to [www.nicurriculum.org.uk](http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk) later this week.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



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