

# WELCOME

# Education ACTIONzone

## ***Project Director Martin Cox welcomes readers and celebrates the outcomes of the St Helens EAZs.***

Welcome to our latest edition of EAZ newspapers designed to celebrate pupil achievement throughout our schools in ACE and IMPACT Action Zones.

The two zones, representing some 6,500 pupils, were set up in 2001 as part of the Government initiative “Excellence in Cities”, established to find creative and imaginative ways of motivating children and young people towards higher standards and improved attendance. They ended in March when funding passed to the schools and new arrangements were made. As a 5 year project, they have now set the scene for developments through to 2008.

The story behind EAZ has been an exciting one. There has been a vast range of activities and support for pupils in lessons. Additionally, there have been opportunities for school staff to extend their professional development and parents to support their children’s education. The aim has to boost self-esteem and above all enthusiasm whereby schools, parents and the local community work together to generate a mood of confidence and optimism.

The wide range of articles is ample evidence of the range and variety of all this work. In particular, there is the involvement and commitment of the children and young people themselves. Their contribution has been tremendous and I would like to thank them all for their superb work. I know that you will enjoy reading about their achievements that give a real flavour of all the activities that have occurred throughout EAZ schools. A word of thanks must also go to their teachers who have encouraged the pupils and also Mike McLoughlin of Newscover Media who has acted as general editor of our newspapers.

This is in fact our final edition. It is therefore timely for me to thank everyone who has worked with the EAZ project. It has been an enormously worthwhile and a hugely valuable experience for the children and young people. It has also been highly exciting for all of us – the EAZ team, schools and business partners who have combined together in such an imaginative way to provide opportunities for pupils. My thanks to everyone for working so hard. We will all miss the project but know that a great foundation has been built for the new cluster arrangements – which means more opportunities for pupils.

I trust that you enjoy this special *Celebration Zone* edition. The team at EAZ would like to wish all staff, friends and pupils a happy and successful future.