



LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS: A CELEBRATION OF CHOICE, DIVERSITY AND FREEDOM IN EDUCATION

Arbroath, Angus, Scotland
Friday 12th – Sunday 14th September 2008

A weekend long event hosted by Scotland's national home education support organisation, Schoolhouse, in co-operation with Angus Arts and part funded by Awards for All, to mark International Freedom in Education Day 2008.

A one day formal conference on Friday 12th September will focus on the broad theme of freeing education from the constraints of traditional schooling and will run in parallel with a weekend programme of family orientated arts and heritage activities in the home of the famous Declaration of Arbroath.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

FORMAL CONFERENCE

Friday 12th September, 9.30am-4.30pm - Webster's Memorial Theatre, Arbroath

This event is aimed at all those with an interest in educational rights and freedoms, including policy makers, formal and informal educators, youth and community workers, children's reporters, representatives from children's and family support organisations, parents, academics, researchers and learners aged 12 and over. (Please note that this event is not suitable for under 12s).

Delegates will be encouraged to think beyond the institution and consider different ways of educating in order to ensure the development of each child's personality, talents and physical and mental abilities to their fullest potential, as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000.

The confirmed keynote speakers are:

John Taylor Gatto

Three times New York City teacher of the year, renowned international speaker and author of many books on educational reform, including *Dumbing Us Down: the hidden history of compulsory schooling* and *The Underground History of American Education*

Iain Nisbet

Solicitor and partner at Govan Law Centre's Education Law Unit in Glasgow which works in partnership with schools, education authorities, parents' groups and charities to make rights in education a reality.

The finalised programme will include workshop and panel sessions, as well as plenty of informal networking opportunities.

ARTS & HERITAGE ACTIVITY DAY

Friday 12th September, 9.30am-4.30pm – Arbroath Community Centre

Schoolhouse has teamed up with local charity Angus Arts (run by home educators) who will be organising a programme of arts activities for participants of all ages in the local community centre. We are also hoping to secure the involvement of local history experts to lead tours of the historic Abbey where the Declaration of Freedom was signed in 1320.

INFORMAL CONFERENCE & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Saturday 13th September, 9.30am-4.30pm -Arbroath Community Centre

This will be a more informal day aimed exclusively at families rather than organisations. John Taylor Gatto will deliver a second presentation in the morning and there will be a number of workshop sessions focusing on specific areas of interest to families as well as opportunities for informal discussion. Arts and heritage activities will run alongside the conference and workshop sessions.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 13th September

Details and venue are still to be confirmed, but we plan to hold a traditional ceilidh evening.

CLOSING SESSION

Sunday 14th September, morning only - Arbroath Community Centre

This will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on the previous two days' activities and discussions and consider ways forward for freethinking educators. The morning's programme will be informal and flexible.

EVENT COSTS

The following ticket costs for the 2½ day event apply to home educating families and individuals only.

Adult: £25

Young Person (5-17): £15

Under 5: FREE

[These costs do not apply to delegates representing public, private or voluntary organisations at the formal Friday conference who will be sent a separate booking form on request].

CONTACT US:

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