



Newsletter Oct-Mar 09

New Classes & Courses this Year:

- **Booster Classes**
Support for GCSE level students in Maths & English—
Thursdays 9am-12pm
- **Mental Health Drop-In Sessions**
1st Monday of the month 1pm-4pm
- **Saturday School**
Support for Key Stage 2 & 3 students in Maths & English—
Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm @ Thomas Alleyne Sch Stevenage
- **British Sign Language Course**
Wednesdays 7pm—9pm
- **Support Group for parents of children with disabilities**
Friday 27th February 10am-11.30am
- **Mother & Baby Group**
Advice on baby health & wellbeing—1st Monday of the month 11.45am—1.15pm

Please contact Angela at the Forum for costs & course lengths

The North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum is a rainbow coalition of local black and minority ethnic (BME) communities. These include Italian, African-Caribbean, Polish, Greek, Chinese and various Asian groups. Our aim is to help these communities to overcome problems that prevent them from playing a full part in the social, economic and environmental life of North Hertfordshire. We aim to inform all Forum's users and partners about ongoing & forthcoming activities and publish success stories through our newsletter.

AGM & Tea Party 2008



The Forum's AGM this year took on a different style. Held on November 28th 2008, the formal AGM was followed by a tea party and game of Bingo for our dedicated users and guests, with a 10th anniversary celebratory cake cutting!

Through this smaller scale event we managed to minimise costs and focus our time more on the valuable services we provide on a day to day basis for our users. The afternoon was enjoyed by a great number of our users, committee, staff and members of the local community.



Overseas Qualifications?

The Forum in partnership with North Herts College provided local BME community members the opportunity to utilize their overseas qualifications in the UK by providing a service to translate their certificates to a recognized British qualification. If you would like more information on how you can use your overseas qualifications here in the UK please contact the Forum directly.

Storyshields Event

Thursday 30th October saw the Forum hold another event in partnership with Hitchin Library. The Storyshields event had over 10 children enjoying story telling and story board making with arts and crafts as part of the national initiative to encourage family reading.



Black History Month Celebrations 08

This year the Forum participated in national Black History Month with an evening of celebration culminating in an astounding performance by the AFM Gospel Choir on Tuesday 21st October 2008. Celebrating the diversity within Hertfordshire



mental health and learning disabilities services, the evening included personal accounts, poetry readings and the live Gospel performance. Over 60 people attended the event and Unity House was full to the brim with celebrators!

Aiming High Success & Expansion!

The Forum has successfully received funding from Hertfordshire County Council's Prevention 513 Fund to provide our Aiming High mentoring service on a county wide basis in schools across Hertfordshire until March 2011. The successful bid has allowed us to welcome a new member of staff, learning mentor Henna, who will primarily be providing mentoring support to schools in St Albans and the surrounding areas. The rest of the team will continue to work in schools across Hertfordshire providing this much needed support. The funding has also allowed the Forum to be involved in two further children's initiatives including a new booster class, providing support to GCSE level students in Maths & English on Thursday mornings at our centre and also a Saturday school providing support to Key Stage 2 & 3 students in Maths & English held at Thomas Alleyne senior school in Stevenage. We are also holding an Aiming High parents consultation event on Wednesday March 18th 3.30pm-5.30pm. If you are the parent of a mentee and would like to discuss their progress you are welcome to drop in. A light afternoon buffet and play activities for the children will also be available.

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<< Some of the recent events at the Forum have included a Health Consultation, First Aid Training & Asian Luncheon Club as shown

If you have any suggestions for courses or activities please do not hesitate to contact the Forum. We are always looking for new ideas and wish to serve all the needs of minority groups across North Herts.

March Activities :

<p>Monday</p> <p>Weekly (term-time) 2nd March Daily 2nd March Weekly (term time)</p>	<p>10.00am – 12.00pm 11.45am—1.15pm 12.00pm – 3.30pm 1.00pm—4.00pm 7.00pm - 9.00pm</p>	<p>ESOL Advanced Class for Mothers with Toddlers Mother & Baby Group for advice on child health (meets 1st Monday of month) Senior Asian Men's Club (meet every wk) Mental Health Advice Drop-In Session (1st Monday of month) ESOL (Evening Class) English for Speakers of Other Languages</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Weekly (term time) TBA Daily TBA Weekly (term time) Weekly (term time) Weekly</p>	<p>10.00am - 12.00pm 12.30pm – 3.00pm 12.00pm – 3.30pm 1.00pm – 3.00pm 3.30pm – 5.00pm 5.30pm – 6.30pm 7.00pm – 8.00pm</p>	<p>ESOL Basic Class for Mothers with Toddlers Chinese Lunch & Social Group (meet every 2nd Tuesday of the Month) Senior Asian Men's Club (meet every wk) Flower Arranging must supply own materials Italian Language School Ages 6-11 years - supported by the Italian Education Service Bollywood Dance Class Keep Fit Class (Women only)</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Weekly (term time) Weekly (term-time) TBA Daily 18th March 25th March Weekly (term time)</p>	<p>9.30am—11.30am 10.00am—12.00pm 11.00pm - 1.00pm 12.00pm – 3.30pm 3.30pm-5.30pm 1.00pm – 4.00pm 7.00pm – 9.00pm</p>	<p>Sewing Skills must supply own materials IT-Basic Course for Mothers with Toddlers ACSC Morning coffee Club – pop in and have a chat, with a cup of tea and biscuits Senior Asian Men's Club (meet every wk) Aiming High Parents & Children Consultation Event Italian Elders Group (meet last Wednesday of the month) British Sign Language</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p>Weekly (term-time) Daily Weekly (term-time)</p>	<p>9.00am—12.00pm 12.00pm – 3.30pm 7.00pm – 9.00pm</p>	<p>Booster Class—support in Maths & English for GCSE level students Senior Asian Men's Lunch Club (meet every wk) Italian Language - Italian for all Adult class</p>
<p>Friday</p> <p>Daily TBA 27th March Weekly @ Bancroft Hall 6th March 6th March 20th March</p>	<p>12.00pm – 3.30pm 12.30pm – 4.30pm 1.00pm—2.30pm 10.00am – 4.00pm 6.00pm—7.00pm 7.00pm – 10.00pm 6.30pm – 9.30pm</p>	<p>Senior Asian Men's Club (meet every week) Polish Meal Club (1st Friday of the month) Support Group for Parents of children with disabilities (Last Friday of the month) African Caribbean Seniors & Carers Luncheon Club Italian Welfare & Social Assistance—INAS (1st Friday of the month) Italian Pensioners Club - FNP (1st Friday of the month) Italian Evening Meal Club (Hot meal served once a month (3rd Friday of the month)</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>Weekly (term time) Weekly</p>	<p>9.30am—12.30pm 10.30am – 12.00pm</p>	<p>Saturday School: Support for KS2 & 3 students @ Thomas Alleyne Sch Stevenage Yoga Class</p>