



### A.A.C Communication Day Rotherham 2009

It is an exciting time for the A.A.C pupils of Newman School. In June 2009 the innovative teaching and learning practice supporting A.A.C across the curriculum was acknowledge in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Alliance awards, sponsored by BECTA. One of the contributing factors being the opportunities pupils have to access communication skills in social settings and regular communication days bringing professionals, carers and pupils together. We plan to maintain these links through a pen pal scheme.

Our last communication day was Easter themed, over 36 A.A.C users attended from Yorkshire and Humberside. It was a great day for getting together, playing games, having lunch and an afternoon disco. Plans are underway for the next one (dare we mention this is Christmas themed)! We will be sending invitations out towards the end of October. The exact date hasn't been confirmed yet, we are hoping for a venue in Rotherham. This is a great way to catch up and children enjoy spending time with other VOCA users. If anybody is interested please contact Debbie Turtle or Claire Rose at Newman School 01709 828262.

Recently achieving specialist schools status has enabled us to provide more support to mainstream schools and programmes to support numeracy, literacy and ICT accreditation for Key Stage 3

pupils. We are currently running the City and Guilds Effective A.A.C course and are aware these will shortly coming to an end. If anybody can offer information about what is to replace it we would be extremely grateful.

Claire Rose – Newman School