

GAEILGE

ENGLISH

MATHS

HISTORY

GEOGRAPHY

SCIENCE

SPHE

SEN

MUSIC

ART

ICT

DRAMA

PE



STEP AHEAD

GAA
Céim Ar
Aghaidh

RESOURCE PACK



FOREWORD

I welcome this opportunity to endorse the **Céim Ar Aghaidh/Step Ahead Education Resource Pack** produced by the **GAA**. I know from visiting schools that last year's pack received hugely positive feedback from teachers nationwide. This year, I note that the GAA have developed the project even further by producing a DVD with GAA related content for schools as well as a teachers pack and worksheets. In this year's pack there will also be a supplementary reader about healthy eating which I particularly welcome, as I know that a healthy eating policy at school and at home has been a matter of concern for teachers and parents alike for some time.



Primary school teachers have played, and continue to play, a very significant role in introducing each new generation to the skills, excitement and enjoyment of our national games. The contribution of teachers has enabled the GAA to flourish in virtually every parish in the country and of course many of our champion players got their first taste for the game when they were in primary school.

The commitment of teachers to passing on a love for our national games will undoubtedly continue. The provision of this resource pack offers the opportunity to teachers and pupils, to recognise the wider contribution of the GAA to life in Ireland, and to our language and culture in particular. I congratulate those involved in its production and welcome the decision of the GAA to provide teachers with this very valuable resource. As a native of the home of GAA - Thurles - tá súil agam go leanfaidh spiorad, fuinneamh agus taitneamh ár gcluichí náisiúnta ar aghaidh.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Hanafin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mary Hanafin, TD
Minister for Education and Science

I believe sport is a very important element in our school curriculum. It enables boys and girls of all academic abilities to compete with their peers as equals on the playing field. It fosters a sense of team spirit and helps to promote a healthy lifestyle which serves us well in later years. Participation in sport can also have positive impacts on academic achievement.



By participating in Gaelic Games, we can nurture and strengthen our proud cultural identity. Introducing Gaelic Games in primary school can help to raise the self esteem of our boys and girls and help them develop as confident young people as they progress through their education to take their place in society. **Céim ar Aghaidh/Step Ahead** is a welcome initiative from the **GAA**. I would encourage all schools and their pupils to grasp the opportunities to participate in the second year of this innovative project.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhairfaimid.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caitríona Ruane". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Caitríona Ruane MLA

Céim Ar Aghaidh/Step Ahead uses the fun of Gaelic Games to deliver an exciting range of learning activities to support the primary school curriculum for:

- Gaeilge
- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Geography
- Science
- SPHE/PSHE
- Special Needs Education
- Music
- Art & Design
- ICT
- Drama
- Physical Education



The feedback from last year's pack was very positive and has led to the further development of the project. This year an exciting DVD has been produced in association with RTE Sport, covering the subjects of Gaeilge, English, SESE and SPHE. This DVD will be of interest to pupils from first to sixth classes. A supplementary reading book for children which deals with the topic of healthy eating is also included in the pack. This book was produced with the support of Bord Bia and Safefood.

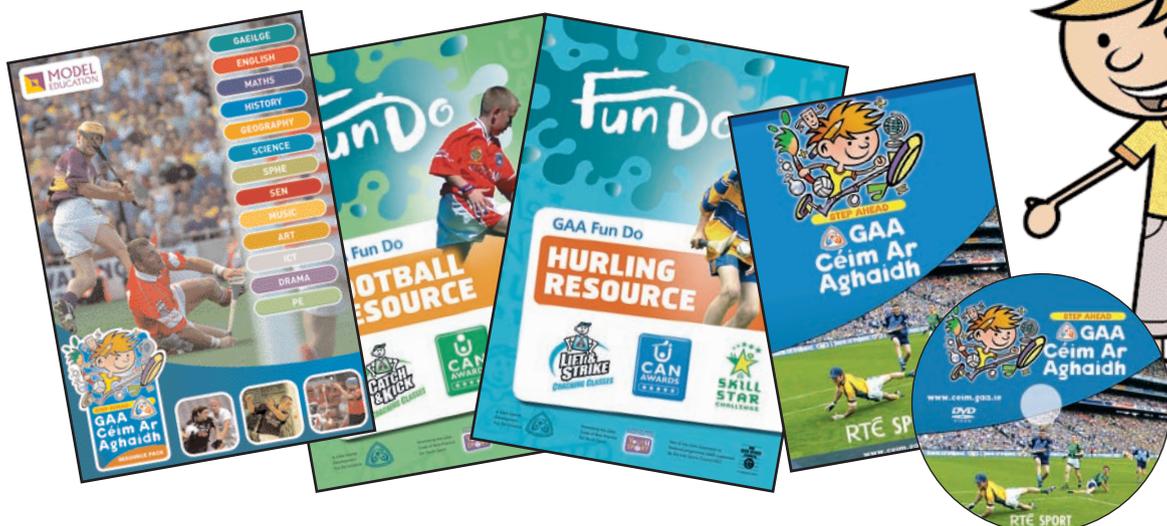
Céim Ar Aghaidh/Step Ahead can be used to support teaching in a variety of subject areas and the exercises can be adapted to suit children of varying abilities through differentiated tasks. In keeping with the ethos of the GAA, the material is designed to promote participation for all. As a consequence, a specific section addresses the needs of pupils with special educational needs.

The website www.ceim.gaa.ie will be of particular interest to teachers as it contains supplementary worksheets for the senior and middle classes. Meanwhile, a Gaelscoileanna section supplies all the material in Irish.

My earnest hope and desire is that the Ceim ar Aghaidh Resource Pack will help to raise standards – on and off the field of play – by engaging pupils.

Níoclás Ó Braonáin

Níoclás Ó Braonáin
Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is a great pleasure for the **Irish National Teachers' Organisation** to be associated with the **Céim ar aghaidh/Step Ahead Education Resource Pack**.

The INTO has a long and proud association with the GAA. Throughout the shared history of both organisations, countless thousands of players, coaches, supporters and fans received their introduction to Gaelic Games in the primary schools of Ireland. Their enthusiasm for, and love of Irish games was nurtured by generations of primary teachers, a tradition that continues to this day.

All primary teachers are associated with Gaelic Games in schools with thousands generously giving of their free time to organise competitions, coach teams and develop skills. Many more support and encourage school teams and foster links with local clubs from which schools and clubs benefit. Whatever contribution is made or encouragement offered, ultimately it is the children of Ireland who benefit greatly.

This resource pack builds on the success of last year's resource pack and I am confident that it will sustain the current work of primary teachers in our schools. The development of a DVD as part of this pack is a welcome addition and I am confident that it will inform children of the historical legacy of our games and inspire the involvement of a new generation of children in our games.

The GAA, like the INTO, is one of the few organisations that can claim to be organised in every town and townland in our country. Both organisations are supportive of one another at local and at national level. A cursory glance at the playing fields of Ireland on any given day of the week will confirm this.

On behalf of the INTO I want to congratulate all involved in the development of this education resource pack. I am confident that through its use in schools, a new generation of children will be introduced to, and supported in their engagement with a most important part of our sporting life.



John Carr
General Secretary
Irish National Teachers' Organisation



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The **Céim Ar Aghaidh/Step Ahead** concept was devised by **Micheál Martin**, Model Education, in conjunction with **Pat Daly**, GAA Director of Games.

Model Education wish to acknowledge the work of **Orla Sayers**, (Drama and Music), **Eddie Hassett** (Art), **Laura Walsh** (Science), **Colm Ó Nualláin** (Maths), **Sean Carthy** (SEN) and **Micheál Martin** (SESE and English). The project was edited by **Declan O'Brien**. The advice and assistance of **Tom Fitzpatrick**, **Richard Bowles**, **Paul Duggan** and **Jimmy O'Dwyer** is greatly appreciated.

The Céim ar Aghaidh DVD was produced by **RTE Sport** in conjunction with Model Education. It was produced and directed by **Tracy O'Connor**. Model Education wish to thank the pupils and staff of the schools who participated in the production of the DVD as well as the players who gave their valuable time to contribute.

Pictures kindly supplied by Sportsfile and the GAA Museum. The publishers have as far as possible endeavoured to acknowledge sources. The Publishers would therefore be glad to hear from any unacknowledged copyright holders.

Designed by

DESIGN AT DBA

Blackrock, Co Dublin

© 2007 Gaelic Athletic Association & Model Education

