

Editorial

Editorial Board

Firstly a Happy New Year to all, and we hope that 1993 will be a year of learning from past experiences and building on successes. With the new year comes a new *Technology for ages 5 to 16*. The much speculated about Revision of National Curriculum Technology is now with us. The HMI review group were set a formidable task to complete in a very short time scale. The resulting Order has much to commend it though some aspects will benefit from further consideration. The revision has attempted to maintain the ethos of the original Order, however, both the presentation of the order and the content of design and technology show many differences. These are designed to clarify the essential characteristics of the subject and the relationship between the programmes of study and the attainment targets; to make the proposals manageable in schools, particularly primary, and to contribute to improve standards in D & T.

A major focus of this issue is predictably the new orders, there is a summary in the form of extracts taken from the report section of the orders. A cross section of members have kindly found time, during their Christmas festivities, to share with us their first impressions of the orders and help stimulate the analysis and discussion which needs to take place over the consultation period, which ends on the 31st March. In *Primary DATA* you will find an 'at a glance' summary for KS 1, 2 and 3, together with the provisional timetable for the revised Order.

It is important that a full discussion takes place during this consultation period and that colleagues should be as detailed in their commendation of welcomed proposals as they are critical of others which do not meet their approval. To ensure that DATAs response truly reflects the view of the membership we need to hear your views. In *DATAnews* you will find information about DATA meetings being held all around the Country together with DATAs National Consultation Seminar, make sure you take one of these opportunities to make your views heard.

The second focus of this issue is on Special Needs, in November DATA was involved in the DfE organised conference on Special Needs in Design and Technology. Colleagues who were at the conference share with us some of the issues which arose, papers which were presented and examples of D & T activities. One of the outcomes of the conference was

identifying the importance of networking in order to take the work of the conference forward and make it accessible to all interested teachers. A DATA development group for special educational needs was identified, to help stimulate local and regional networks, to share good practice and to provide guidance on improving access and achievement in design and technology for pupils with special needs.

The journals' continuing aim is to promote dissemination and debate about the ongoing development of design and technology. This is your journal and it is particularly important that we share, views, reaction and curriculum initiatives with colleagues during this most critical time for D & T.

We look forward to hearing from you.