

# President's Report

**I have always valued a lively curiosity in the young more than any ability to impart information.**

This was vividly illustrated for me on a mountain in heavy rain with a six year old who broke a long soggy silence as we struggled along with the question, "Who is stronger; God or Tarzan?" It seemed that the elements had in no way diminished his will to tackle one of the great imponderables. I fear my answer did not do justice to his question.

For me, a much easier question is, "What is the NAGC's prime role today?" It has not changed much over the years but today more than ever it is our support for parents as well as their gifted offspring which differentiates us from others in the field. Parents' role in the education of their children is, as we all know, absolutely critical. Very often it is the key to the difference between success and failure – a word I use in defiance of the prevailing ethos where the F word is frowned upon, particularly in education. The National Curriculum's one-size-fits-all approach entails devastating consequences for so many youngsters whose curiosity is quenched by its inflexible approach. Sadly but predictably, gifted children feature heavily in this group. I am reminded of the school whose prospectus proclaimed; "We cater for all abilities and interests... All boys play rugby in the Autumn term." Even at Westminster in the nineteenth century the Headmaster turned down a request to include French on the curriculum. Why? "Because it might prove useful for international trade."

Parents, therefore, are those whom the NAGC seeks to support most assiduously as they attempt to navigate the often sluggish waters of our educational provision. Their children's gifts are a national asset sans pareil. This has, of course, always been the case, as one teacher put it, "since time immemorial." But never more so, I suggest, than today when the signs of society's tendency to dumb down are all around us.

So I wish all our staff, all our members and all parents of gifted children everywhere Strength and Valour – the gladiators' battle cry - as they enter the fray in the year ahead on behalf of the highest standards their children can encounter and achieve.



Christopher Martin  
**President**



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Christopher Martin





## Chair's Report

**During 2009 our small team of staff and volunteers has delivered an outstanding performance despite the challenges posed by the turbulent financial conditions.**

“All our work is supported by the generosity of our members and volunteers and I must thank them all once again for the support they have provided over the last year.”

Steve Ramsden

It is a credit to our staff, volunteers and members and their commitment to improving the lives of our children, that for the second year running we have managed to improve our financial position whilst continuing to be the leading charity representing gifted and talented children and their parents and carers across the country.

Evidence of NAGC's international reputation can be seen from our activities involving organisations from Turkey, Austria, Denmark, New Zealand and Vancouver to name but a few, whilst our national standing has been amply demonstrated by our involvement in the City Gates project in the Black Country. All our work is supported by the generosity of our members and volunteers and I must thank them all once again for the support they have provided over the last year.

Steve Ramsden  
**Chair**



# Chief Executive's Report

Welcome to this year's Annual Report. I hope that it provides you with a useful - and interesting - snapshot of our activities over the past year.

And what a year it has been! We have been involved in international projects; projects with carers; a project with low income families to encourage their children to look at university as an option; with events involving 8 to 800 people and a whole range in between as well as a set of magazines which would now not look out of place in any high street newsagents; and much more besides.

NAGC is a vibrant organisation with a 'can do' attitude and an approach which stresses the value of working in partnership with other organisations for the benefit of gifted children and their families.

At the centre of all of this is the support and involvement of our members; ordinary parents who happen to have a gifted child and all that entails and who feel very deeply about the importance of improving education in this country for the gifted and talented child.

One of my greatest pleasures in this role is sending out my monthly e-letter - usually at midnight - and waiting for the messages to start coming in from parents with comments, ideas, and suggestions on what is, or should be available for gifted children and what we at NAGC could do to help support them. Please keep writing to me - and thank you.

As we move into the next financial year, the world is about to change again for gifted and talented children with the Government's White Paper giving pupil and parent guarantees on a range of issues in school and the likelihood of an election some time in 2010. We will live in interesting times.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of NAGC, to thank everyone who has worked with us over the past year; parents, carers, families, schools and partner organisations as well as our Trustees, volunteers and staff. We could not do all we do without your support and involvement. Thank you.



Denise Yates  
**Chief Executive**



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Denise Yates

