



Information re: Geographical Association and Geography Champion NING Network sites

The **Geographical Association** exists to “further the teaching and learning of geography”. One important aspect of this work is encouraging teachers to form networks: whether local or regional, and to engage with national opportunities. This represents one aspect of CPD, and encourages the development of a community of practice.

As part of the **Action Plan for Geography**, a government funded initiative which has invested in school geography and spawned a wide range of projects, the Geographical Association has created a number of online networks to offer an additional level of support for geography teachers.

We have created a new online “virtual professional network”, which makes use of a web platform called a **NING**. This is also used by some people for what is known as “social networking”. In many local authorities, these sites are categorised as being in the **BLOCKED** category along with blogs, e-Bay, Forums and gaming sites.

We would like you to unblock these sites for use by teachers in schools which are involved with the Geographical Association networks. This is not a blanket relaxing of the filtering which obviously has its purpose, but hopefully a recognition that these sites are not ‘chat rooms’ for teachers, but form an important part of their professional development and provide mutual support at a time of major curriculum change.

The networking sites that have been created have the following URLs:

<http://geographical.ning.com> – the Geographical Association’s network

<http://geographychampions.ning.com> – the Primary Geography Champions’ network

<http://geographynqt.ning.com> – the network for NQTs and PGCE Geographers

We would be grateful if you would consider making these sites available to schools that contact you with this request. If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact Alan Parkinson at the GA by phone: 01142960088 or e-mail: aparkinson@geography.org.uk

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Lambert'.

Professor David Lambert

Chief Executive, Geographical Association