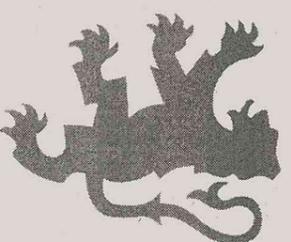


The Journal



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Mission to boost children's results

railblazing

cheme set to be announced

GRAEME WHITFIELD
Journal Editor

A SPECIAL scheme to boost school performance in the North East is set to be announced by the Government. The Mission North East scheme aims to repeat the success of the

London Challenge introduced by the last Labour Government, which helped bring big improvements to results in the capital. The Government said the scheme would improve results by "bringing together schools, parents and communities to develop innovative strategies that will

deliver sustained improvement and provide a blueprint for change nationally." In recent years the gap between exam results in the North East and the best performing areas has widened to a worrying degree.

Full report, Page 5

HUGE CROWD FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

PAGE 9

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SPAR



Crowds gather to see spectacular Chinese New Year celebrations Newcastle yesterday

Crowds turn out to welcome the Year of the Horse

OWEN YOUNGER

Reporter
owen.younger@reachplc.com

A PACKED crowd witnessed stunning Chinese New Year celebrations in Newcastle city centre yesterday.

The Year of the Horse was welcomed as huge crowds gathered to be a part of the colourful and entertaining festivities.

The Lunar New Year celebrations in the city started at Grey's Monument just before 11am, with a special 'eye-dotting' ceremony, with the brand-new dragon from Choy Lee Fut Kung Fu Club. At 11.30am the parade began, heading down a packed-out Blakett Street and Gallowgate, before heading through the iconic Chinese Arch and making its way through Stowell Street in Chinatown.

Special performances included Tai Chi demos, fan dancing and traditional instrument recitals. Also, at Bath Lane, there were a variety of food vendors and stalls,



as well as fatiground rides and arts and crafts station.

This comes after previous celebrations in the Grainger Market on Saturday, led by the Moi Fa Academy and the Sunderland Unicorn Society. The proceedings kicked off with a Lion Dance through the market's alleys capturing the attention of shoppers and Thai Chi demonstrations.

