

## Teaching School Who's Who

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## GOOD NEWS!

We are very pleased to offer a number of **congratulations** this term to: **Wyndcliffe** on their **good** Ofsted judgement; **Oliver Wilson** who departs the Alliance as DHT at Aston Tower and takes up his first Headship; **Sue Collin** as Acting HT at Nansen.

**We welcome: Anglesey Primary** as a new partner school; **Nicola Mills** as DHT at Conway; **Vicky Colley** of Beeches Infants and **Maneer Samad** of Westminster as LLEs; **Kate Baldwin** of Story Wood, **Carol Newman** of Hillstone and **Rob Strang** of Arden as new SLEs with **Clair Hollis** and **Kali Pouni** joining us as experienced SLEs;

We say goodbye to **Julie Guzder**, DHT Hodge Hill and **Angela Brown**, DHT Clifton Primary who retires after 40 years at the school!

Dear Colleagues

These are tough times for education. The best-funded years are probably behind us and we now need to seek ever more creative ways of working together for best value. Sadly, education is no longer at the top of the political agenda and we are all expected to do more with less. The TSA is not a panacea but, if we work hard to communicate and share with each other, it can provide a vehicle for collaboration beyond particular school types or structures.

It's been great to welcome new colleagues to the TSA and to widen everyone's networks but it's also important that everyone understands that this is not a hierarchical organisation but a means by which schools can work together. Your involvement in the TSA may mean that you receive support or training at some point but also that you contribute at other points. To be honest, a few schools in the TSA contribute a lot and this work needs to be more evenly shared. So please step up if you have capacity. There won't be lots of financial gain but there will be great moral purpose!

The past year has been difficult for teaching schools for a number of reasons which we will reflect on at our TSA Meet on 19 April but in the past few months we have seized all opportunities available. SSIF1 and SSIF2 are good examples of this. We have a deep commitment to self-improvement and doing our best for all Birmingham schools and we are one of several TSAs in the City working closely with BEP to demonstrate that we can make a difference.

We wish everyone a very good Easter holiday and well-deserved rest and hope that you all have the right levels of confidence and energy to manage the challenges of end-of-year assessments next term - especially KS2 SATs in just a few weeks. As usual we will conduct our own, supportive evaluations in July in the spirit of non-judgemental cooperation.

Best wishes

Pat

## TSA BOARD

### Azita Zohhadi

I have been nominated to Chair the TSA Board for another year. My school: Nelson Mandela Primary, has been a strategic partner of the Alliance since it was designated in 2011. The TSA Board aims to meet termly and each member of the Board contributes to the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes, expenditure and supporting the shaping of the GSA future strategy. I currently Chair the Initial Teacher Training Working Group (ITWG) working closely with Emma Arnott. The TSA Board met on 5 March to review the last 12 months and to consider how we can strengthen our Alliance further. We were all in agreement that we need to find new ways of offering support and CPD within the constraints of reduced budgets and schools' capacity to release staff. We felt, however, that this work is so important and that we need to consider creative ways to do this. All ideas are welcome! We also discussed the importance of the Alliance working collaboratively and ensuring that all partners contribute to our moral purpose of better outcomes for all children. Please remember to raise the profile of our work and share our newsletter with your governors and staff.

**Remember: Greet TSA needs you because our children need us.**

### TSA BOARD 2017/2018

#### Thursday 28 June 2018

1.30—3.30pm at Greet Primary School

### TSA MEET 2017/2018

#### Thursday 19 April 2018

1.30—3.30pm at Greet Primary School

#### Thursday 12 July 2018

1.30—3.30pm at Greet Primary School

*Don't forget that meeting dates are also listed on the Alliance web-portal!*

### TEACHING SCHOOL TRAINING SPACE

We are delighted that since half term we now have access to a training room at Greet on Wednesday/Thursday/Friday. This means that we can reduce the financial burden of holding our TSA Board and TSA Meet at costly external venues, as well as having a much needed space in our lead school.

We look forward to developing the use of the space on a regular basis.

### ALLIANCE DATA COLLECTION 2018

This year the primary data does not become available until just before the date of our summer term TSA meet. This means that there will be a very tight turnaround deadline for the meeting. We will circulate the data proforma to Alliance schools in the first week of July.

## STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUND

The DfE Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) provides an excellent opportunity to bring significant funding for school improvement into the city, to effect longer term progress, and as a TSA we are really pleased to be involved in a number of aspects of the work.

### SSIF1

The work through the SSIF1 bid is now well underway, as we have reached the mid-point review stage.

As colleagues will be aware, the TSA is the named support for two schools in the bid; the first 'tranche' of support has taken place, and Pat Smart and Emma Arnott have been to the BEP Scrutiny Committee to report on progress and impact so far. It was a very positive meeting with a strong level of challenge, as befits such a high profile piece of work. Once the mid-point reviews have taken place in the schools, and we see the recommendations for next steps, we will then meet with school leaders to plan the programmes of support going forward.

Alongside the scrutiny from BEP, the DfE are also closely monitoring the work, and have been out to meet with BEP colleagues and visit some of the schools being supported. Quite rightly, they are highlighting the importance of leadership and sustainability of improvement, so that will be a major consideration when planning the focus of the remaining support days.

### SSIF2

The SSIF2 bid is an even more ambitious project - a bid for over £1 million, focussed on improving reading in Primary Schools, building on the 'Reading Partners' Project we led on for BEP last academic year. Although the original bid was not successful, the DfE have given advice and recommendations on how it could be improved, so the revised bid has now been submitted and all are hopeful that it will be successful.

Whilst we wait for the outcome, the work has already begun, and a number of schools in the Alliance are involved, either providing or receiving support to improve reading. Alliance Partner Headteachers will hear more about that in our upcoming TSA Meet.

In addition to the partnership support, there are a number of other ways in which the TSA is involved in delivering this project. Emma, our Teaching School Manager, is leading the group of SLEs and subject specialists who will be carrying out a range of activities, including disseminating the good practice seen in schools involved in the bid, forming a 'Book Club' to read and share learning from a range of high quality texts on improving reading, and establishing Reading Hubs to ensure that the work and improvements are sustainable beyond the four term 'life' of the project. Furthermore, a small group of teaching schools, including Greet TSA, will be putting together a programme of reading twilight training sessions to be offered to all the supported schools, covering aspects highlighted through EEF research as well as wider work on improving reading in schools.

So, exciting times, lots happening and another great example of collaborative working to maximise effectiveness! We will, of course, keep you informed as things progress, including on a number of SSIF3 bids currently being put together . . .

## SCHOOL DIRECT

As the spring term draws to a close, our 2017/2018 trainees are coming to the end of a second busy term.

In the first few weeks, in addition to honing their skills in the classroom, our class of 2017/2018 participated in a range of training sessions to further build their skills and knowledge: from phonics to PE, from assessment for learning and progress to developing oracy, and finishing with an engaging and inspiring day of Art and D & T, all of which will stand them in really good stead, not only for this training year, but their careers as the NQTs, teachers and leaders of the future.



They then headed to their Development Schools for an assessed teaching placement in a different Key Stage - quite a jump for those moving from the very top of KS2 down to year 1!! Now, as they come to their term 2 end point reviews, we're pleased to report that all have been successful and are well on track to achieve QTS.

The summer term takes them back to their Home Schools, straight into a final assessed teaching placement then onto some further training sessions before they complete the programme and are ready to embark as NQTs next year.

We wish them all the best for the summer term, and are really pleased that a number of our trainees have already been appointed to NQT posts in the Alliance, so we will be continuing to

follow their development through our NQT Induction Programme and beyond. May they all enjoy every success!

### And so on to School Direct 2018/2019 . . . .

Recruitment has been ongoing for a number of months now, and applications are continuing to come in steadily, albeit slowly. As always, we are incredibly grateful for the dedication and commitment of the ITT working group, giving generously of their time to shortlist applications, host in-school observation tasks and take part in the interview panels.

All our salaried places have been filled, and the course is now closed to new applications. At the time of writing, although we have recruited some training programme trainees, we have a good number of places still available, so if you have friends, colleagues or family members interested in a career in Primary teaching, please do encourage them to apply. Time is increasingly of the essence, as we are likely to close applications around the beginning of June; hopefully by then we will have a sizeable group of strong trainees, ready to start their teaching careers with us!

As those colleagues familiar with School Direct will know, we always work in 3 year 'blocks', so we are already thinking forward to our class of 2019/2020 . . . . It is likely that we will be required to request places for that cohort before the end of this academic year, and as you may have seen in the media, there are potentially some very significant changes around initial teacher training and newly qualified teachers coming in the near future. So, we are keeping a keen eye on the DfE website to ensure that we are up to date with the current situation, expectations and requirements.

## POST NQT 2018/2019

Our newly launched Post NQT Programme has been highly valued by those teachers participating in the programme. Over three twilights they have had support in the areas of: Managing Behaviour; Relationship and Growing Up Education and in early summer term will begin to think about their career development.

They have commented that *"talking to other teachers and sharing ideas"* along with *"exploring what works and what doesn't work"* has been of great benefit to them. All have left the sessions with new strategies to start using in the classroom straight away, as well as going away to investigate their school policies.

For 2018/2019 we will further develop the offer and introduce new themes, to include: Online safety in the classroom (incl. social media and gaming sites); the Prevent agenda in the curriculum.

*The new programme will commence in the autumn term ..... please keep an eye out for the dates and details.*

**\*\*\*The TSA will be piloting a part-bespoke System Leadership CPLD Programme for SLTs wishing to expand their skills and capacity as they grow their organisation. If you would be interested in joining the pilot please contact Emma Arnott\*\*\***

### Our TSA Board:

Azita Zohhadi (Nelson Mandela); Julie Berrow (Brookfields); Emma Arnott (TSA); Sheenagh Edger (Greet); Julie Greenwood (Leigh Trust); Joanne Hill (BCU); Jo Jones (Story Wood); Christine Mitchell (Clifton); Shirley Queenan (TSA); Pat Smart (TSA); Emma Tyler (Greet).

### Our Alliance Partners:

Acocks Green Primary; Alston Primary; Anglesey Primary; Arden Primary; ARK Tindal Academy; Aston Tower Community; BCU; Beeches Infants; Benson Community; Blakesley Hall Primary; Bordesley Green Primary; Brookfields Primary; Canterbury Cross Primary; Chandos Primary; City Road Academy; Clifton Primary; Conway Primary; English Martyrs Catholic Primary; Gracelands Nursery; Greet Primary; Hillstone Primary; Hodge Hill Primary; Ladypool Primary; Leigh Primary; Lillian de Lissa Nursery; Nansen Primary; Nelson Mandela; Newman University; Park Hill Primary; Redhill Primary; Regents Park Community; Robin Hood Primary; Shaw Hill Primary; Somerville Primary; St. Anne's Catholic Primary; St. James' CE Primary; St. John's CE Primary; Starbank; Story Wood School & Children's Centre; Ward End Primary; Wattville Primary; Welford Primary; Westminster Primary; Wyndcliffe Primary; Yardleys.

### The Greet Teaching School Alliance

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