

Teaching School Who's Who

Pat Smart

Executive Headteacher
E: p.smart@greet.bham.sch.uk

Emma Arnott

Teaching School Manager
E: e.arnott.greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk

Shirley Queenan

Teaching School Business Manager
E: s.queenan.greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk

GOOD NEWS!

This issue we have much to celebrate as we offer our **congratulations** to: **Gurjit Shergill** on her appointment as Headteacher at Arden Primary School; **Steve Taylor** on his NLE designation; and not least to our Teaching School CEO/Executive Headteacher **Pat Smart**, for the award of CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of her services to education; a fitting tribute to Pat's perseverance in enabling the best possible opportunities to Birmingham's children. We also welcome **Angela Hutchinson** as Headteacher of Nansen Primary School. We have had 2 high profile day-trips ... **Rukhsar Begum** was invited to 10 Downing St to the High Performing Teachers reception and **Azita Zohhadi** went to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in honour of Prince Charles' 70th birthday! Ofsted has been busy across the Alliance in recent weeks and we are delighted to hear so many of our colleagues have maintained their previous inspection outcomes: **Ark Tindal**: good; **Benson**: good; **Starbank**: outstanding; and **Ward End**: outstanding! *continued page 2*

Dear Colleagues

As we come to the end of another academic year, and despite the stress of decreasing budgets, higher curriculum expectations, recruitment issues and (of course) SATs outcomes, it feels like education is off the radar politically. It's a difficult time for us all but makes us even more aware that working in partnership is really the only way forward. Exactly how that can be done via the Teaching School Alliance remains unclear. Keeping ourselves sustainable in this landscape is challenging. We need to think more "outside the box" and adapt our ways of working. Maybe being in challenging times can make us more reflective and creative. I, for one, will be getting my thinking hat on over the summer!

Three people who don't need to worry about the future of the TSA are Gerry Hudson (Starbank), Mark Lanyon (St. James) and Christine Mitchell (Clifton) - all heading off to do wonderful things in their retirement. They have been great friends to the TSA with Gerry and Christine in particular very involved in a number of strategic activities. Many, many thanks to you all and all our good wishes for the future. We will miss you!

For everyone else, have a great summer. Hope your SATs results make you happy.

Best wishes

Pat



Four schools in our Alliance, Ark Tindal, Conway, Regents Park and St. Anne's, have been taking part in the m-Evaluate project, a research project through the Open University. This project looked at the potential for raising standards in Maths using Mobile Applications, and was undertaken in Reception and Year 1 classes, with children and teachers alike enjoying the experience!

The data collected will be analysed over the summer break by the Open University with a dissemination event taking place in early September. The OU will report on the findings of the project and will share ideas on how we can use technology in the classroom to improve children's learning experiences We'll keep you posted.

TSA BOARD

The final TSA Board meeting this academic year took place on Thursday 28 June. As colleagues know, the Teaching School is in a period of transition, and in the wide-ranging discussions Board members absolutely re-iterated their commitment to the TSA, our vision and values, highlighting the increased importance of support and collaboration in an increasingly fragmented and potentially isolating landscape.

Board members are keen to have greater involvement in the strategic development of the Teaching School, so an additional planning and strategy meeting has been set for the autumn term 2018, as part of the ongoing review of the Teaching School and activities. With a number of members retiring or moving on at the end of this academic year, the Board is also looking to recruit new members for the next academic year. We really hope Alliance partner colleagues will consider joining the Board to become more involved in setting the strategic direction of our work - watch this space for more details.

Many thanks to all our Board members for your time and commitment, it really is very much appreciated, and particular mention to Christine Mitchell and Julie Berrow who will be leaving us at the end of this academic year - we have really enjoyed working with you, and are very grateful for all you have done for the Teaching School since our designation.

NEWS continued

We also have some farewells to say Goodbye and Good luck to: **Julie Berrow** who takes up a new Headship outside the Alliance; **Lana Gaskin** in her new ventures and **Vanita Patel** who moves on to a leadership role following her time in the Birmingham Teacher Talent Team. With heavy hearts we wave off **Gerry Hudson**, **Mark Lanyon** and **Christine Mitchell** who all retire at the end of this academic year. All have been loyal supporters of the TSA and we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of their wisdom and time.

! SAVE THE DATE !

The next **TSA Meet** for all Alliance Headteachers will take place on **Thursday 4 October 2018**, 1.30—3.30pm at Greet Primary School.

At this meeting the focus will be Alliance Data; learning from one another's success and good practice sharing.

STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUND (SSIF)

SSIF2

The SSIF2 Reading Project, in which the TSA and many of our partner schools are heavily involved, is now well underway. As colleagues know, there are many facets to this project - school to school support partnerships, CPD programmes, sharing of resources and support from specialist leaders – all of which have the overarching aim of improving reading outcomes for primary school children across the city.

At the TSA Meet in April, it was really great to hear one example of successful SSIF2 working from colleagues at Blakesley Hall Primary School and Canterbury Cross Primary School, who shared about the strong and positive partnership they had established, and the progress already made. No doubt this is reflected in many other schools and their SSIF2 partnerships, both within the Alliance and beyond, and we look forward to hearing more success stories over the next academic year.

The work of the group of Specialist Leaders, co-ordinated by our Teaching School Manager, Emma, is picking up apace! Having read, discussed and tried out some of the activities from the book [Bringing Words to Life](#) by Isabel Beck, Margaret McKeown and Linda Kucan, the group is in the process of producing a summarised version - one page per chapter - to give schools a taster of the strategies and approaches advocated by Beck et al. And those involved in the project recently had the opportunity to enjoy a half day training session exploring Robust Vocabulary Instruction in more detail, led by a colleague from Ark St Albans with input from one of the Specialist Leaders on the impact of using the approaches in his classroom. Other work planned by the Specialist Leaders includes analysing the reports from NLE visits to supporting schools to distill examples of excellent practice, creating additional resources and supporting schools in disseminating key messages from the training provided, all of which will be available to colleagues through the BEP website.

The other key role for Teaching Schools in the bid is delivering a programme of reading twilight training sessions to be offered to all the supported schools, covering aspects of EEF research as well as wider work on improving reading in schools. Across ACTS (the Association of Central Teaching Schools), five Teaching Schools, including Greet TSA are involved. We are very grateful to colleagues from Nelson Mandela School, who have agreed to plan and deliver a training session on behalf of the TSA on 'Whole School Management of Reading'. We know how much the schools who attend will benefit from hearing about the whole school approach to reading through which Nelson Mandela has maintained its high reading outcomes.

No news yet on the outcomes of the SSIF3 bids submitted across the city, or about the future of SSIF in the light of recent Government announcements We will, of course, keep you updated as things progress.

SCHOOL DIRECT

As we come to the end of the 2017/18 academic year, we prepare to wave goodbye to our current cohort of School Direct trainees. They have had a great year, and all (except for one trainee who has deferred his final placement to the autumn term) have successfully completed the course, gained PGCE and QTS and have been appointed to NQT posts.

I'm pleased to say that it's au revoir, rather than goodbye, to most of the class of 2017/18, as they have been appointed to posts in Alliance schools. To those moving outside the Alliance, we wish you all the very best; to those of you staying with us, we look forward to continuing to work with you on the NQT Induction Programme and beyond, as you progress in your careers.

As always, the quality of the programme is due to the support and work of so many Alliance colleagues - members of the ITTWG; Heads, School-based Tutors and class teachers hosting trainees; those hosting, delivering and quality assuring training sessions and workshops; Newman University partnership tutors too many to name but we are incredibly grateful for all that you do to make our School Direct programme so successful.

As one cohort ends, the next prepares to begin, and we are now making ready to greet our Class of 2018/19



After months of recruitment and a great deal of commitment from school and University colleagues, we now have closed both the School Direct and School Direct (salaried) courses and we have our 2018/19 cohort: 6 trainees in total, 3 on each route. We welcomed the group to the School Direct course at their Induction Day on

13 July and are very much looking forward to getting to know them over the coming year. We will, of course, keep you updated on their progress as the year goes on.

And so our thoughts turn to School Direct 2019/20 And it's all change there!

You'll recall that, in our spring term newsletter, we mentioned we were giving some consideration to our partner provider for School Direct 2019/20. So, Azita Zohhadi, Andy Bush (DCEO of Create Partnership Trust) and Emma Arnott met with local Universities towards the end of June, to discuss their School Direct offer and how we may be able to work in partnership for the 2019/20 academic year onwards. We had some really interesting discussions with a range of colleagues, and after much consideration, including with other members of the ITTWG, we have decided to work with the University of Birmingham (UoB) for School Direct 2019/20.

The UoB colleagues we met with were very positive about true partnership working, shared our commitment to high quality and were welcoming of flexibility so that we can continue to tailor our School Direct course to the needs of our schools and trainees. There is lots to do over the coming weeks and months to build the relationship with University colleagues and establish the new course, whilst also running the current programme for our 2018/19 trainees and recruiting our trainees for September 2019 exciting perhaps a tad daunting ... but we are confident this will be a really great next step in the further development of our School Direct programme.

We have very much enjoyed and benefited from our partnership working with Newman University for School Direct since we first began the programme, and know that our links with the University for other areas of TSA work will continue long into the future.

NQT7

We met our seventh cohort of NQTs on 13 July as they began their induction programme and look forward to seeing them develop across the year.

**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

Greet Primary School, Percy Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, B11 3ND

Tel: 0121 303 1587

Email: greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk

www.greettsa.org



@greet_tsa