

Teaching School Who's Who

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OPPORTUNITIES

As Marcus and Danielle embark on new phases in their lives, there will be opportunities for school staff to become involved in or lead on aspects of the TSA work or projects.

Watch this space, or contact Emma Arnott if you would be interested in supporting us.

With now days to go until the Easter holiday and (very few) weeks to go until SATs, we wish everyone all the best. We love working with you! Do contact us if we can help in any way.



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TSA DEVELOPMENTS

Much has been happening in and around the TSA over the past few weeks with the growth of work with BEP and discussions around academy conversions. We recognise that the education landscape is changing rapidly and that we need to adapt accordingly. Over the next few months we will be adjusting our approaches to take account of national and local changes and ensure that we are providing the best service possible to everyone in the Alliance. To this end we have formed a Development Group which meets to identify Alliance needs and resulting TSA provision. Thank you to Julie and Rehana (Leigh), Julie (Brookfields), Christine (Clifton) and Azita (Nelson Mandela) for attending our most recent meeting. We have the beginnings of a plan!

Our most recent TSPG meeting included a very interesting and informative presentation from Basit at Arden about their 'Dads and Lads' project. Please do contact him for further information or practical ways Arden might support you in this type of work.

Pat

GOOD NEWS!

There are lots of good news stories in the Alliance

Congratulations to: SLEs **Charlotte Nott** and **Nanaki Bajwa** who have been appointed as **Headteacher** and **Deputy Headteacher** at **Alston Primary School**; **Cath Rindl** who has been appointed as **Headteacher** at **Nansen Primary School**; **English Martyrs School** who were recently judged by Ofsted to be **OUTSTANDING** in all areas.

..... and SAD GOODBYES

We say a very sad goodbye to our friend and colleague **Marcus Bridger**, who leaves his role as TSA CPD leader at Easter. After two really good years helping us to develop our CPD provision, Marcus is moving on to do other things - including availability for supply if you need him! (There will be a queue!). We are so sorry to see Marcus go and we thank him for all his support and comradeship. **THANK YOU MARCUS!** Farewell and good luck on behalf of everyone. It's not goodbye!

We also say a temporary goodbye to **Danielle** our administrator, who leaves us at Easter and is expecting her baby girl in May. Good luck Danielle! We will miss you and look forward to your return in 2017!



Multi Academy Trusts

Academy conversion is on everyone's mind. We congratulate **Yew Tree** and **Aston Tower** which have both received their academy orders. **Conway/Greet's** is in the pipeline, hopefully! We held a meeting on the evening of 25 February with Alliance HTs, SBMs and Chairs of Governors to hear presentations from the RSC Pank Patel, Education Adviser Felicity Gillespie, solicitor Chris Whittington and LA support David Willey. There was an excellent turnout of around 30 HTs and 50 governors/SBMs. We hope everyone found the evening useful.

As a follow-up we have organised a **meeting for SBMs on Thursday 17 March 1.30-2.30 at Greet**. Please confirm attendance with Emma Samuel: e.samuel@greet.bham.sch.uk by 14 March with questions and thoughts so that we can plan well for the discussion. Pat will be attending and other HTs would be most welcome. We are also happy to have a subsequent meeting with Alliance governors if that would be helpful.

Commissioned Work

Our TSA has been commissioned by BEP to support a school in RI and the work has begun well. We are also supporting a school in special measures and we are particularly grateful to a number of HTs, senior staff and SLEs who are providing leadership guidance and support. Additionally we have been commissioned to review three RI schools whose inspections are imminent. Thank you to Gill Sparrow (Hillstone), Jo Jones (Story Wood/Regents Park) and Sue Middleton (Stanville) who are leading each review, supported by Pat, Gill and Christine Mitchell (Clifton). Further opportunities to undertake this kind of work will be available next term, so please contact Shirley if you are interested.

Save the Dates!

We will arrange group bookings for the West Midlands Leaders Conference on **Wednesday 18 May** (Chateau Impney) and the EDT Inspiring Leadership Conference **Wednesday 15 – Friday 17 June** (ICC).

Aspirant SLE Workshop

On Monday 11th January we held our first workshop for aspirant Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs) and were pleased to welcome 10 colleagues from schools across the Alliance who are interested in becoming more involved in school to school support through the TSA.

It was a really successful afternoon!

The workshop began with an introduction to system leadership from LLE Julie Berrow, followed by more detail on the skills and expectations of an SLE from Emma Arnott and an overview of safeguarding from Marcus Bridger. Then the real highlight for the aspiring SLEs – the opportunity to hear case studies of their work from four of our existing SLEs and spend time in small group discussion with them, exploring the highs and lows of the SLE role as well as gathering helpful advice on the SLE application and recruitment process. It is always so valuable for colleagues considering the SLE role to hear directly from those who already have the designation and are doing the work. Many thanks to Bridget Dennis, Rebecca Stanley, Jill Wilson and Oliver Wilson for coming along to the workshop to share your experiences and insights.

Although we haven't yet set a precise timescale for further SLE recruitment, we do anticipate running another round of recruitment this academic year. Watch this space...

In the meantime, we hope to be able to offer opportunities to aspiring SLEs to become involved in CPD and school to school support through the TSA, to further develop their understanding of system leadership and provide experiences on which they can draw in a future SLE application.



Visits to Alliance Partner Schools

The Teaching School Alliance is now in its fifth year of designation, and it is wonderful how the Alliance has grown and strengthened in partnership working over that time. Although we often meet together as groups of colleagues, over the past months Emma and Marcus have particularly enjoyed visiting a number of Alliance partner and strategic partner schools. It is a real privilege to get to your schools better, and we have welcomed the opportunity to seek your views on what the Alliance offers and how we can work together even more effectively.

A key aim for the visits is to establish if you have capacity to offer support to other schools, or to share any aspect of good practice. There is such a wealth of skill and expertise across the Alliance! As a teaching school leadership team, we are looking to build our knowledge of the experience and capacity in your schools so that we have an increasing number of people to call on when responding to requests for school to school support.

Of course, our visits also provide opportunity for discussion if you have requests for school to school support or CPD yourself, or suggestions of training and professional development opportunities that the Alliance could offer more widely.

Our visits are continuing this term, so if they haven't already been to see you, Emma or Marcus may well soon be in contact. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts, suggestions or requests, do please get in touch.

NQT Pool

After the success of the first Alliance NQT Pool last year, the Greet TSA NQT Pool 2016 opened to applications in early January. In total, fifteen applications were received, from trainees on a range of PGCE and School Direct courses.

A group of Heads and Deputies from schools across the Alliance then met in early February: applicants were shortlisted, interview dates arranged and questions agreed. Of the fifteen applicants, thirteen were shortlisted, to be interviewed on Tuesday 23rd February by a panel of Headteachers at either Alston Primary School or Nansen Primary School. Thank you to Huda Aslam, Jane Cross, Gerry Hudson, Charlotte Nott and Cath Rindl for your involvement in the shortlisting and interview process. Unfortunately, not all shortlisted candidates were able to attend their interview, so 7 candidates in total were interviewed, of which 5 were offered places on the Pool.

All five have accepted their place, so the information on successful candidates is now available to Headteachers who want to access the Pool. Of course, acceptance onto the Pool is through application and interview only, so Headteachers will still want to take candidates through their school's own recruitment process and see them teach before making any offer of employment.

If you are interested in accessing the Pool candidates and haven't already let us know, please email: greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk to register your interest.



NQTs enjoying some GaPS training during the recent residential event in January 2016

If you are interested in your school becoming involved with the School Direct training programme next academic year: hosting a trainee as their Home School, taking a trainee for the shorter Development School Placement or delivering training to our 2016/17 cohort, please contact Emma Arnott.

ITT/School Direct

Recruitment for the 2016/17 cohort of School Direct trainees has now closed. After a number of rounds of interviews, we are pleased to confirm that offers have been made and accepted for all three salaried places and four training programme places, so we will have 7 trainees in total starting with us in September 2016. All our successful applicants have been matched to their Home School for the programme, and over the coming weeks and months they will be visiting to get to know the schools and meet the colleagues they will be working with next year.

Recruitment this year has been a challenge, exacerbated by the national controls imposed by the NCTL. On 27th January, we received an email alert that applications nationally for the School Direct training programme route had already reached 75% of the government target, so the NCTL was likely to soon implement their controls to stop any further recruitment... cue some quick work, with support from ITTWG colleagues, to squeeze in another round of interviews on 8th February! Many thanks to all who responded so quickly to enable this to happen at such short notice.

Then, on 5th February, the NCTL alerted us that recruitment had hit 90%! With bated breath, we hoped against hope that there wouldn't be a flurry of last minute offers on Friday night and that our interviews could still go ahead the following Monday... we're pleased to say that there was no further correspondence from the NCTL that weekend, so those interviews were able to take place before the NCTL issued the order to stop recruiting.

As always, we are extremely grateful for the support and commitment of so many colleagues who give of their time to take part in the many facets of the recruitment and training process - we really couldn't do this without you!

Middle Leaders' Network 2016

Our first Middle Leaders Network meeting will be taking place at Acocks Green Primary School on Friday 11 March. Facilitated by Bridget Dennis, this session will allow leaders to focus on their current roles and the skills they need to develop further, as well as providing the opportunity to explore issues around challenging conversations. The network will give middle leaders time to reflect as well as motivate them in their role.

Places are still available, please contact us: greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk to reserve places.

NQT Induction Programme (Cohort 4)

As always, it is a pleasure to work with our NQTs who show such enthusiasm. All of our expert trainers have commented on how responsive and interactive Cohort 4 are. The recent residential events have provided NQTs with the opportunity to examine and challenge their own practice, as well as setting goals for further improvement. The sessions covered a range of topics including 'becoming outstanding' and 'how to achieve work/life balance'.

NQTs' self-evaluation alongside their peers is powerful; the induction programme has provided them with valuable support networks and friendships during their challenging first year as a teacher.

The NQTs have rated all sessions extremely highly. Their comments and feedback include:

"The Alliance NQT Induction Programme has further equipped me with a range of effective teaching and learning strategies with which to raise standards and ensure pupil progression."

"The Good to Outstanding session gave me good pointers to consider when planning my lessons."

"The time management session reminded me that I should have a life."

A reminder that the next NQT mentors meeting is on Wednesday 15 June, 2 pm – 4pm at Greet Primary School. If it is not possible for the lead mentor to attend it is beneficial for another mentor to come along.

Finally, in view of the national confusion around assessment and KS2 SATs, we are proposing to hold an important **Alliance meeting post-SATs results** on the morning of **Monday 11 July**. We would normally just undertake a data collection exercise for the Alliance but this year we feel that a discussion is necessary. Please put the date in your diary. **There will be two free places per school** (possibly for HT/DHT or assessment leader). Details to follow.

Our Strategic Partners:

Arden Primary ; Benson Community; Brookfields Primary; Clifton Primary; Conway Primary; Greet Primary; Leigh Primary; Nelson Mandela; St. John's CE; Starbank; BCU; Birmingham LA; DRB; Newman University.

Our Partner Schools:

Acocks Green Primary; Adderley Primary; Alston Primary; Anderton Park Primary; ARK Tindal Academy; Aston Tower Community; Chandos Primary; City Road Academy; English Martyrs Catholic Primary; Gracelands Nursery; Ladypool Primary; Lillian de Lissa Nursery; Nansen Primary; Park Hill Primary; Redhill Primary; Regents Park Community; Somerville Primary; St. Anne's Catholic Primary; St. James CE Primary; Story Wood School & Children's Centre; Ward End Primary; Wattville Primary; Welford Primary; Wyndcliffe Primary; Yardleys Secondary; Yew Tree Primary.

The Greet Teaching School Alliance

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