

### 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

### Autumn Welcome

Hello to all colleagues.

We hope the autumn term is going well for everyone. A special welcome to some a new school joining our Alliance and some new Headteachers joining the schools!

We had a successful TSA meeting in July when we shared our initial 2016 data and, now we've had time to embed the information (and conduct a post-mortem .....), we need to look more closely at how we can learn from the experience! Most importantly, what can we do together to help everyone succeed in 2017?

The term's open meeting is on Monday 7 November at Austin Court with arrival from 1.00pm, for a 1.30pm start. We would like to update you on the position of our TSA in view of the changing national landscape and the self-improving system because we need to adapt accordingly. We will be suggesting some structural changes and hope they meet with your approval. As you are aware, we have always promoted the TSA as an "alliance of equals" and hope that this will continue. Some of our schools have been very active in the TSA and we want to encourage everyone to get involved for mutual benefit.

We shall be looking at some practical examples from work around the Alliance and also welcoming Tracy Ruddle from BEP who will update us with the City overview and how BEP is bringing people together. Our Alliance is wide-ranging and supportive and we are committed to working with each other and BEP. Please do join us for a couple of hours on Monday. There are two places for each school.

Best wishes

Pat

### Good News

We are delighted to wish congratulations to newly appointed headteachers in the Alliance:

**Emma Tyler** and **Sheenagh Edger** at Greet; **Alan Beale** at Regents Park; **Razia Ali** as Interim HT at Wyndcliffe. We also congratulate **Carolyn Seymour** on her appointment as Head of School at St. John's; **Wendell Gopaul** as DHT at St. Anne's and **Nikki Hemming** as DHT at Clifton.

We welcome **Lianne Purnell** and **Angela Sawyer** as our Newman University colleagues, **Lana Gaskin** as PSHE Leader for Create Partnership Trust who will be taking oversight of the TSA NQT Induction Programme and to **Hodge Hill Primary School** who have joined the Alliance.

Over the summer holiday the **teaching school website** commenced a complete redesign and rebuild! It is now live; we hope that you like it and find it easy to navigate. We will happily advertise Alliance school teaching vacancies on the TSA website, just send us the details of your vacancy (not forgetting the closing date) and we will add it to the vacancies page. Stage 2 of the website will follow with log-in access for Alliance schools and groups within it.

## TSSG/TSPG MEETING

Our next joint TSSG/TSPG meeting will be taking place on the afternoon of Monday 7 November at Austin Court. This will follow on from the meeting in July where we looked at our Alliance data ..... Tracy Ruddle of BEP will join us to share more about the city-wide picture and some of our Alliance schools will talk about their journey to improved results.

The afternoon will run from 1.30 to 4.00pm (arrivals from 1.00pm). Two representatives from each Alliance school are welcome.

## BIRMINGHAM TEACHER TALENT TEAM

The TSA is now employing 3 teachers on behalf of the Birmingham Teacher Talent Team (BTTT).

All 3 have year-long placements at schools in the city: Samina Thorpe is placed at Bournville School's new primary provision where she is their Y1 class teacher; Alicia Henry and Vanita Patel are both placed at Hodge Hill Primary School for the academic year, Alicia in Y4 and Vanita in Reception.

*A reminder that the **new ACTS city-wide charging policy** came into effect in September. This is reflected in all of the commissioning statements we have been sending out this term.*



In redesigning the website it meant that our logo underwent a facelift! We hope you like it, though you will still see the old logo around for a while.



## BEP READING PARTNERS PROJECT

The TSA has recently been commissioned by BEP to lead on their Reading Partners Project.

We are really excited at the opportunity to work collaboratively with colleagues from BEP to lead on this city-wide project, which is also being supported by the National Literacy Trust and local Birmingham bookstore Peters Books. In total, 37 schools from across the city are involved (including a number from within our Alliance) and Tracy Ruddle, BSP DCSI, has organized the participants into 16 reading partnerships, with schools where attainment in reading is particularly strong working with schools who have requested support to improve reading.

The project will be officially launched on Monday 14 November, at an event hosted by Peters Books (many thanks to colleagues there for supporting us). We are very pleased to welcome colleagues from the National Literacy Trust to open the morning and afternoon sessions with a keynote and input on strategies and approaches to encourage reading for pleasure and raise attainment, particularly boys' attainment. Heads and leaders from the participating schools will then have the opportunity to hear from colleagues about practice that has been effective in raising attainment in their schools before spending time in their partnership groups, action planning the support and joint working that will take place over the rest of the academic year.

A key role for the TSA is monitoring the progress and impact of the partnership working on raising attainment in reading. So, Emma is currently in the process of putting together a TSA 'team' of Heads and Senior Leaders who will work in pairs to carry out this aspect of the work.

We will, of course, keep you updated as this interesting new project develops. Do also keep an eye on the BEP website for the latest news on the project.

## ITT/School Direct

After a flurry of recent announcements from the NCTL and DfE, the drive for School Direct 2017/18 recruitment is now well underway!

The first fortnight of October 2016 saw us involved in no less than 4 Open Events in a variety of locations: an **Education and Teaching Fair** and **School Direct Recruitment Event** at Newman University; our own **TSA School Direct programme Open Evening** at Arden Primary School; and, at Joseph Chamberlain College, a first for the city – a **Train to Teach in Birmingham** event for school-led providers, spearheaded by ACTS. Across the events we met a good number of prospective applicants with real potential and a passion for Primary teaching. It was particularly encouraging at Newman University to hear that candidates are coming to events specifically to talk to us, because of our growing reputation as a School Direct provider and the high-quality of the training and support that we provide. Fingers crossed these events and conversations will result in a high number of strong applications when UCAS opens ....

Many, many thanks to all colleagues who gave of their time to support these events: to the members of the ITTWG Azita Zohhadi, James Allan, Gerry Hudson, Nicola Mills and Joanne Roach; to Jane Cross, Christine Mitchell and Tania Yasmin; and to two of our former trainees, Vicky Floyd and Bryony Harrison. It was so great for prospective applicants to see Heads' investment in the programme, how closely we work together, and, of course, to hear directly from those who have completed the course so successfully. All of your support and commitment are greatly appreciated!

*We will be promoting our School Direct Programme at a National **Train to Teach Event** on **Saturday 19 November 2016 at the Edgbaston Stadium.***



As usual with School Direct, we are thinking over a three year span, so ...

- **Congratulations** to our 2015/16 cohort of trainees, all of whom successfully achieved QTS and are now NQTs in schools in the Alliance.
- **Welcome** to our 2016/17 cohort – 7 trainees who have made a really great start in their Home Schools and are about to embark on their first assessed teaching placement.
- And last but not least, of course, we are looking forward to recruiting our 2017/18 cohort.

The NCTL's processes for School Direct recruitment have changed for 2017/18 and we have been allocated 12 places in total: 6 salaried and 6 tuition fee. As you may be aware, this is, unfortunately, below the number we requested, especially for tuition fee places. At the moment there is no indication that we will be given the opportunity to request more places if we fill all 12 quickly, but who knows how things may progress as recruitment begins ...

UCAS opens to applications on 18 October, and we have interview dates scheduled in November and December. Thanks to all colleagues who have already offered to take part in the recruitment – either by observing applicants in their school-based task in the morning or interviewing candidates alongside a colleague from Newman in the afternoon. If you are interested in taking part in the interview process for School Direct 2017/18, please contact Emma: [e.arnott.greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk](mailto:e.arnott.greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk)

## School Experience Programme

As a key element of our marketing and recruitment for School Direct, the TSA is pleased to offer our School Experience Programme again this term. It really is a fantastic opportunity for prospective applicants, and many of those we met at the various recruitment events have been very interested in taking part.

The autumn term School Experience Programme will take place from Monday 7 November to Wednesday 9 November and we are really grateful to Charlotte (Alston), Julie (Brookfields), Emma and Sheenagh (Greet) for offering participants the opportunity to spend a day in each of your schools.

We are aiming to continue to offer the School Experience Programme a number of times throughout the academic year. It would be great to have as many Alliance schools as possible involved in hosting participants for one of the days, to maximize opportunities for potential applicants and demonstrate the range of schools and expertise in our Alliance. To find out more, or register your interest, contact Emma Arnott.

If you have friends, colleagues or others in your school community who may be interested in pursuing a career in teaching, but lack recent relevant Primary School experience, please do let them know about the School Experience Programme. For more information, or to request an application form, they should contact: [itt.greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk](mailto:itt.greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk)

### 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; Newman University.

### Our Partner Schools:

Acocks Green Primary; Adderley Primary; Alston Primary; Anderton Park Primary; ARK Tindal Academy; Aston Tower Community; Blakesley Hall Primary; Bordesley Green Primary; Chandos Primary; City Road Academy; English Martyrs Catholic Primary; Gracelands Nursery; Hodge Hill Primary; 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.

### The Greet Teaching School Alliance

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

Tel: **0121 303 1587** Email: [greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk](mailto:greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk) [www.greettsa.org](http://www.greettsa.org)



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