



Teaching School Who's Who

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To all TSA colleagues:

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. We hope you find it useful in keeping up-to-date with various activities. Times are changing for teaching schools. Funding is tighter and there are greater expectations of impact, nationally and regionally. Birmingham now has 23 teaching schools and this presents as much of a challenge as it does in areas where teaching school numbers are limited. There is a strong sense that more coordination and cooperation is needed and in Birmingham, this means alongside BEP. We are very happy about this as we have a collegiate view and approach – and we all want Birmingham schools to succeed, no matter who provides the support. This year our Birmingham group of TSAs (ACTS) is chaired by Sue Barratt from Bournville Junior and our regional representative on the Teaching Schools Council is Richard Gill from Arthur Terry. We are all involved in collaborative conversations and actively seeking ways to build capacity in the city and attract plenty of funding.

At a recent discussion between BEP and teaching schools, Steve Munby presented the challenges to us: Birmingham faces some competition, some isolation and some variability. How will TSAs deal with this? How will the work be quality assured? How will value for money be assured? TSAs and BEP recognise that we could achieve more with economies of scale by working together. At another event, Sir David Carter, the National Schools Commissioner spoke about improving schools, not just focusing on structures and the need for a national strategy to build capacity in MATs, TSAs etc. So, hopefully there is the political will for TSAs to continue but in the context of greater accountability. There will be more MATs but the focus will be on quality not quantity.

Best wishes to you all for a well-deserved break and looking forward to seeing you in January.

TSA HEADTEACHER BOARD

We are pleased to announce our new TSA Headteacher Board:

Pat Smart	TSA
Emma Arnott	TSA
Shirley Queenan	TSA
Sheenagh Edger	Greet
Emma Tyler	Greet
Julie Berrow	Brookfields
Julie Davies	Leigh
Jo Hill	BCU
Jo Jones	Story Wood
Tony Lacey	Arden
Christine Mitchell	Clifton
Cath Rindl	Nansen
Azita Zohhadi	Nelson Mandela

The Board will meet on a termly basis and will provide a layer of governance of the teaching school.

Pat

TSA MEET

Our recent joint TSSG/TSPG meeting, now known as 'TSA Meet' provided lots of discussion on our individual ways of working and highlighted we can never stop learning from one another!

The **next TSA Meet will be held on Thursday 9 March 2017, 1.30 – 3.30pm** at a venue to be confirmed.

The Meet will focus on **Safeguarding** and **Recruitment & Retention Strategies**.

The **summer term 'Meet'** will take place on **Monday 10 July 2017, 1.30 – 3.30pm** at a venue to be confirmed.

We look forward to seeing Alliance colleagues there. *Please put the dates into your diary.*

ALLIANCE OFSTED UPDATE

We are delighted that Birmingham Senior HMI, James McNeillie, has offered to come to speak to colleagues in the Alliance to update us on Ofsted as well as giving us an opportunity to ask our burning questions!

This meeting will be held **at Greet Primary School on Tuesday 10 January 2017, 4.30 – 5.30pm** (arrivals from 4.00pm).

All Alliance schools are offered 3 places at the meeting for Senior Leaders e.g. HT, DHT and CoG; our SLEs and associated LLEs are also invited to come along.

On BEP Reading Partners:

"Thanks for the opportunity to work with another school to try and improve our practice and raise standards in reading.

We have already taken so much away from both the BEP launch morning at Peters Books and a visit to our partner school."

Headteacher of participating school



BEP READING PARTNERS PROJECT

The 'official' launch of the BEP Reading Partners project, on Monday 14 November, was a great success! Colleagues from 29 of the participating schools attended in their partnership groups.

The half day events, ably hosted by Peters Books, began with a thought-provoking keynote from Catherine Boulton from the National Literacy Trust (NLT). She shared key questions that got everyone thinking and talking, as well as some really useful strategies and resources to take back and use immediately in school. We then moved into a session of 'speed-dating', where colleagues from the schools offering support through the project shared effective texts, resources and approaches for improving. There was a real buzz in the room! Each session then finished with quality action planning time in school partnerships, scoping out the detail of the joint working over the rest of the academic year.

The partnerships of schools are now beginning their joint working, as per their partnership discussions and action plans and we are really looking forward to seeing the impact of this collaborative working and support at the 'Showcase' day on 12 July 2017.

After a busy time of organisation and coordination, next term the role of the TSA shifts slightly to focus more fully on monitoring the progress and impact of the partnership working on raising attainment in reading. Emma is looking to put together a TSA 'team' of Heads and Senior Leaders who will work in pairs to carry out this aspect of the work. Thank you to those colleagues who have already agreed to be involved in this aspect of the project; Emma will be approaching others in the early part of the spring term, so that the team can be established ready for the Progress and Impact Review meetings with participating schools, scheduled to take place in February 2017.



National Train to Teach Roadshow

On Saturday 19 November the National Train to Teach Roadshow came to Birmingham! So we, along with many other school-led and University providers, spent the day at (a rather chilly!) Edgbaston Stadium advertising our School Direct programme and talking to prospective applicants. After a slightly slow start, there was a steady stream of visitors, and it was really great to meet a good number of people who are keen to become Primary school teachers.

Over the course of the day we met a real range of people, from those just beginning to explore the possibility of teacher training to others with their plan mapped out and their sights set clearly on the goal of starting their training next September. With all, we enjoyed really positive conversations; hopefully these will now translate into applications and, in time, the teachers of the future for our schools.

Many thanks to Tania Yasmin from Conway, for coming along to join us on the TSA stand at what ended up being our busiest time! I know people really appreciated hearing about the programme, and the Alliance, from a Headteacher's point of view.

The next National Roadshow will be taking place on **Saturday 4 February 2017 at the ICC** in Birmingham city centre. As part of our marketing of School Direct, the TSA has reserved a stand there and colleagues are very welcome to come along and join us for an hour or so, if you are available. We will of course, also be involved in other local recruitment events, including more Train to Teach in Birmingham events for school-led providers at **Joseph Chamberlain College**.

More details to follow in due course

School Direct Recruitment 2017/18

Recruitment for School Direct 2017/18 is picking up apace. We have already held one round of interviews (**and made an offer of a place which has been accepted!**), and, by the time you read this, will have held a second round and shortlisted for a third!

As usual, the majority of applications so far have been for the salaried route, although we are now beginning to receive a growing number of training programme applications. Applications have come in a little more slowly than we hoped but we have seen a number of candidates with real potential so remain hopeful that, especially with the increase in our marketing this year, we will be able to fill all 12 places with high quality trainees who have a passion for teaching in inner-city Birmingham.

We'll keep you updated as places are filled. In the meantime, if you are interested in taking part in the interview process for School Direct 2017/18, please let Emma know:

e.arnott.greetsa@greet.bham.sch.uk

NQT Induction Programme

Lana Gaskin reflects on her first set of residentials on the NQT5 Induction Programme:

"It was good to meet with all of the NQTs at their first residential experience of the programme. The residentials took the NQTs out of their busy daily environments and provided opportunities for them to learn from training and their peers as well as giving time to reflect on their first half term as a teacher.

The importance of building strong professional relationships cannot be underestimated. I hope that the time given has enabled them to begin to develop new connections with those who are sharing their experiences and journey which will continue throughout this year and into their future careers.

Through their evaluations, NQTs recorded how valuable they had found the experience as well as identifying those areas in which they have less confidence. Over the year, the programme will support them in addressing these areas and further developing their practice.

I look forward to seeing them again in the New Year at the next set of residentials on 12 January (5A) and 19 January (5B) and to working with them throughout the year".

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; 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

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