

### Teaching School Who's Who

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### GOOD NEWS!

We welcome **Hillstone** to the Alliance! Congratulations and welcome also to **Wendell Gopaul** who is the new Headteacher at Alliance partner school **St. Anne's**.

We also offer our congratulations to colleagues at **Regents Park** and **Leigh** who were both judged to be **good** following their recent Ofsted inspections.

Well done to our School Direct trainees **Chris Bullock, Charlotte Hunt, Neelum Parveen, Nisha Vadukul,** and **Stephen Whatley** who have all been appointed to NQT positions for 2017!

Dear Colleagues

We recognise that we are in changing times: school structures, reduced budgets and political uncertainty. However, the one thing we do know is that in tough times, good relationships and collaboration between schools are even more important. That's why we feel that our Alliance has great benefits for us all.

The past four years or so have seen the advantages of the Alliance growing non-hierarchically but we know that we also have to change with times and recognise the educational landscape that we're in. All the indicators are that there will be greater accountability or, as Steve Munby described it, "collaborative leadership in a high accountability system" (ICC 2015); however, we are determined not to lose the good relationships and trust already in place.

We also have to look at financial sustainability and affordability – for the TSA itself and for each school within it. Importantly, the subscription to the TSA has been put on hold for the summer term until we have had time to consider it in more detail. Further details on this will be published in late June or early July after the TSA Board's next meeting.

We have begun our reappraisal with the governance of the TSA and have warmly welcomed the group of volunteers who have now formed our new Board. They will play an important role in overseeing our TSA work and helping us to plan strategically for the future. This will include financial planning, working with other teaching schools and with BEP and providing the best themes and practical suggestions for the wider engagement of Alliance schools. Each of our new Board members will take responsibility for an area of TSA work and can hopefully report to everyone in future newsletters. The Board has lots of ideas – so watch this space!

So thanks to those who have signed up for the Board (as listed on the back page) and particularly to Azita Zohhadi (Nelson Mandela) who is Chair for the first year and Julie Berrow (Brookfields) who is Vice Chair.

Hope the spring term goes well for everyone. Get in touch if you need support. We have a fine group of Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs) who can help you. Get in touch also if you have some spare capacity or staff with areas of expertise which could benefit others.

Best wishes to all

Pat

## Alliance Ofsted Briefing

As you can no doubt imagine, when West Midlands Senior HMI James McNeillie offered to speak to Alliance Headteachers and Senior colleagues, to give an update on Ofsted priorities locally and nationally, we were very keen to accept! So, on the afternoon of Tuesday 10 January, the TSA was pleased to welcome James to Greet. A timely visit, as the new HMCI Amanda Spielman had taken up post on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, and had addressed all HMI at an event the previous week.

Over 60 colleagues from Alliance schools, including Headteachers, Senior Leaders and Chairs of Governing Bodies, came to the briefing, to hear the latest Ofsted messages directly from HMI.

After an introduction outlining Birmingham's position within the national picture, the majority of the presentation focused on Ofsted's priorities as highlighted in the current Inspection Handbook. The presentation included lots of useful signposting and advice to Heads and Governors for immediate action back in school, as well as reinforcing colleagues' understanding of Ofsted's role, current focus and approach to inspection.

## NQT Pool

As members of the Alliance will know, for the past three years the TSA has co-ordinated an annual NQT Pool, inviting applications from those in their final year of teacher training and due to achieve QTS in the summer term.

This year's TSA NQT Pool opened in early January and closed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month, by which point we had received a good number of applications from trainee teachers on a number of different routes to QTS. Many thanks to colleagues from ARK Tindal, Blakesley Hall, Regents Park, Nansen, Nelson Mandela and Starbank, who met to shortlist the applicants, agree interview questions and who formed the subsequent interview panels. Interviews took place in two sessions on 16 February, at Regents Park and Starbank, and candidates are being informed of the outcomes at the time of going to print. Once all successful candidates have confirmed their acceptance onto the Pool, their details can be made available to Alliance Headteachers, for Heads to identify who they may be interested in approaching about NQT posts in their schools.

Alliance Headteachers whose schools were not involved in the shortlisting and interview process but who would like to access the Pool should look out for an email in the coming days outlining next steps and how to receive the information on successful applicants. We would remind colleagues that the recommendations to accept candidates onto the Pool are based on application and interview only; Heads will, of course, want successful Pool candidates to be part of individual school recruitment processes, including observation of their teaching, before making an offer of a post.

## TSA BOARD

Our new TSA Board met for the first time on 16 February and had interesting debate on the future of the TSA and our place in the school-led system in Birmingham. Further discussion will take place at the *TSA Meet* in March.

A key role for the Board is to consider the TSA subscription, due for renewal on 1 April. They were in agreement that in light of reducing school budgets and our commitment to all schools in our Alliance they would like to give further consideration to the subscription fee at their next meeting in the summer term. Therefore, **no subscription fee will be charged for the summer term 2017.**

## TSA MEET

A reminder that the **next TSA Meet for Alliance members will be held on Thursday 9 March 2017, 1.30 – 3.30pm** at Edgbaston Stadium.

The Meet will focus on **Safeguarding, Pupil Premium Reviews 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.

## S2S

Many thanks to system leaders from a range of schools for their support and commitment to the school to school support work of the TSA over the last term or so:

Gill Sparrow (Hillstone Primary School), Rehana Yasmeen (Leigh Trust), Azita Zohhadi & Nicola Mills (Nelson Mandela School) and Julie Waters (Acocks Green Primary School) for supporting Pat with lesson observations as part of the TSA's role in monitoring a school in special measures.

Sara Martin (Regents Park Community Primary School), Eliot Mullett (Greet Primary School), Soraya Wheldall (Conway Primary School), Bernadette O' Rourke (Brookfields Primary School) and Charlotte Nott (Alston Primary School) for carrying out in-depth scrutinies of pupils' work in English and Maths at a school in special measures.

Oliver Wilson (Aston Tower Community Primary School) for providing an audit of Maths provision and leadership support to a Maths leader in a school requesting support.

Kate Kipps (Stanville Primary School) for providing BEP-commissioned EYFS support to a school requiring improvement.

Gill Sparrow (Hillstone Primary School), Christine Mitchell (Clifton Primary School), Jo Jones (Story Wood & Regents Park Schools) and Julie Davies (Leigh Trust) for leading or taking part in a BEP-commissioned QUAD review of a school.

Azra Bi (Clifton Primary School), Charlotte Nott (Alston Primary School), Julie Berrow (Brookfields Primary School), Jo Jones (Story Wood & Regents Park Schools) Kalsom Khan (Park Hill Primary School) and Christine Mitchell (Clifton Primary School) for carrying out a partnership review of a school in the Alliance.

We are grateful to so many fantastic colleagues working with us to support other schools; those listed above and many, many more who give of their time to different aspects of TSA work. Our system leaders provide amazing support to teachers, leaders and governors. Thank you all - the TSA couldn't do it without you!

## Successful Middle Leader Project

The TSA recently made a successful bid for school to school support funding from the National College for Teaching and Leadership, to run a project supporting middle leadership development in four identified primary schools.

It will be known as The Successful Middle Leader Project, and we are delighted that Jo Jones, NLE and Executive Headteacher of Story Wood School & Regents Park Community Primary School, has agreed to lead on the project, taking oversight of the work, ensuring consistency and evaluating impact.

The purpose of the project is to upskill less experienced middle leaders to ensure that they impact on standards and progress in their areas of responsibility. It will be a bespoke school-based programme, working alongside the Headteacher and/or senior leaders based on the areas for development identified by the school and will involve a number of days of coaching or mentoring from an experienced leader.

We are really excited about this opportunity to create a package of middle leadership support and development that we hope will act as a pilot for future work with other schools.

## School Direct Recruitment 2017/18

Recruitment for School Direct 2017/18 is moving in the right direction, albeit a little more slowly than we might have hoped.

After four rounds of interviews, we have made 7 offers of places, all of which have been accepted. It is perhaps unsurprising that the majority of applications have been for salaried places; in fact of the 7 offers made so far, 6 are for the salaried route. As a result, we have made the decision to request to switch one of our allocated training programme places to become a salaried place. I'm pleased to say that our partner University Newman, and the NCTL, have both agreed that change, so, at the time of writing we have 1 remaining salaried place and 4 training programme places available to start in September 2017.

Please do continue to encourage those within your school community who may be interested in a career in teaching to consider our School Direct programme. We know we have a really high-quality programme, and are very keen to fill all remaining places with the future teachers and leaders our schools need!

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.greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk](mailto:e.arnott.greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk)

## National Train to Teach Roadshow

On Saturday 4 February, the National Train to Teach Roadshow returned to Birmingham, this time to the ICC in Birmingham City Centre. So, armed with flyers, promotional bags and the obligatory chocolates(!) we took our place on the TSA stand, alongside a range of other school and University providers from across the West Midlands and beyond.

This central venue attracted a good number of prospective School Direct applicants, many of whom were starting early in researching the different routes and providers in preparation for submitting an application for a September 2018 start. We enjoyed lots of very heartening conversations, and a number of people we spoke to were particularly impressed with the quality of our programme, the partnership working across the Alliance and wrap-around support for trainees. It was definitely a worthwhile experience, and a good opportunity to market our School Direct offer to a wider audience. Hopefully we will see the benefits in terms of increased numbers of applications from high quality candidates over the coming years.

Many thanks to Gerry Hudson from Starbank and James Allan from Chandos, who did a great job attracting prospective applicants and encouraging them to visit our stand and find out more!

We will, of course, also be involved in other local recruitment events, including potentially another Train to Teach in Birmingham event for school-led providers at Joseph Chamberlain College planned for early March 2017. More details on that to follow in due course.



## NQT Induction Programme

The second of two residentials took place in January with a range of interesting and engaging sessions.

Lana Gaskin captured NQTs as they explored aspects of practice in more depth!



### Our TSA Board:

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

### Our Alliance Partners:

Acocks Green Primary; Alston Primary; Arden Primary; ARK Tindal Academy; Aston Tower Community; BCU; Benson Community; Blakesley Hall Primary; Bordesley Green Primary; Brookfields 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; Somerville Primary; St. Anne's Catholic Primary; St. James CE Primary; St. John's CE; Starbank; 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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