

Teaching School Who's Who

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GOOD NEWS!

We welcome back our administrator **Danielle** who has returned from maternity leave. **Congratulations** to: **Razia Ali** who has recently been appointed as the substantive Headteacher of Wyndcliffe Primary School; **Somerville** and **Redhill** Schools who both retained their 'good' status following their recent inspections.

Alliance Colleagues: Don't forget to send us details of any vacancies you are advertising currently and we will put them on the vacancies section of our website!

Dear TSA Colleagues

Well we are in interesting times politically as we move towards the general election. If the pollsters are to be believed we are likely to be getting more of the same following 8 June so it's unlikely we'll see much change in education policy – though possibly a change in national leadership? We'll see

One reason this is important is that a few weeks ago, the Government announced substantial funding for school improvement: £140 million per year over two years. This is for groups like TSAs, MATs, LAs etc. to bid for collaboratively. Here in the West Midlands we are continuing to develop our bidding plans for the deadline of 23 June and hoping that this funding won't be immediately cut by the new administration.

We still have many schools in Birmingham which need external support and, in fact, each of our schools at some time or other, finds ourselves vulnerable. No more so is this obvious than during SATs week! We wish everyone all the best for results this summer after such a stressful 2016. Meanwhile, if you need support, just contact us! We are here to help. AND if our bids are successful, we could have the money to provide it. Any bids we make will have to name schools so please do get in touch soon so that you don't miss out.

We will be running our SATs data collection again this year and meeting up on Monday 10 July to share the data. Please make sure you join us.

Best wishes to you all.

Pat
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CONSULTATION, CONSULTATION, CONSULTATION!

Colleagues will already be aware of a number of national public consultations underway, and we encourage everyone to respond and ensure that our individual and collective voices are heard, relating, in particular, to:

Primary Assessment in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/primary-assessment-in-england>

Secretary of State, Justine Greening's speech can be accessed: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/update-on-primary-assessment-in-england>

And in addition parallel consultation,

Primary Pupil Assessment: Rochford Review Recommendations: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/primary-school--pupil-assessment-rochford-review-recommendations>

Both consultations **close at 5.00pm on Thursday 22 June 2017.**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

As mentioned overleaf, the DfE recently announced the Strategic School Improvement Fund valuing £140 million each year over 2 years for academies and maintained schools, aimed at ensuring resources are targeted at those schools most in need of support in order to drive up standards and deliver more good school places. The TSA will be collaborating through ACTS and with BEP to submit a bid to support schools in the city.

Also, the Education Endowment Fund has committed to spend a further £20 million over the next 2 years to further evaluate school improvement approaches and supplement their toolkit of evidence-based programmes and interventions. We will be looking out for ways that the Alliance might become involved.

DO YOU NEED AN EYFS CLASS TEACHER FOR 2017/18?

If you require an EYFS class teacher for the academic year 2017/18, why not consider a placement from one of our BTTT teachers? The one-year placement offers you a strong teacher who will be a committed member of your staff team for the whole academic year, offering consistency for the class they teach as well as disseminating their skills across the school. Contact Shirley if you are interested.

SYSTEM LEADER RECRUITMENT: NLGs

Recruitment of National Leaders of Governance (NLGs) is currently underway, in 10 national target areas to include the West Midlands and Birmingham. Please encourage your very good governors to consider becoming a System Leader. Further information can be accessed via: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-leaders-of-governance-a-guide-for-potential-applicants#nlg-target-areas>

Closing date for applications is 11.59pm on Friday 12 May 2017.

SLEs

A reminder that our Alliance has 22 Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs) who can be deployed to your school for school-to-school support or CPD delivery. Their designation include specialisms in: English; Literacy; Leadership Development; Early Reading Skills; School Business & Financial Management; Assessment for Learning; Primary Data; PE and School Sports; Teaching & Learning; NQT Development & ITT; Maths; Curriculum Development/Leadership; EYFS; Phonics and Special Educational Needs but many have more wide ranging skills. If you are interested in commissioning a SLE please contact Emma or Shirley.

SUCCESSFUL MIDDLE LEADER PROJECT

At the start of the spring term the TSA was awarded some funding from the NCTL to run 'The Successful Middle Leader Project' - a bespoke, school-based programme to support the development of middle leadership in primary schools, led by Jo Jones, Executive Headteacher of Story Wood and Regents Park Primary Schools.

Jo began by meeting individually with the Headteacher of each of the five schools involved in the project, to gain an understanding of their school's context and ensure that the programme would meet identified needs. She then put together a comprehensive package of group training sessions and personalised in-school coaching over the spring and summer terms, supported by reading and research from a range of sources, for the middle leader participants. Already over half way through, the project is progressing really positively, and we are looking forward to seeing the impact at the end of this academic year.

But we are certainly not seeing this as a one-off or single project for this academic year only. As a TSA we are committed to offering a continuum of support and development for colleagues at all stages of their career: a 'Leadership Pathway' from teacher training to the highest levels of leadership. So, a key part of Jo's role is to explore how this model could be used and disseminated further in the future to develop other middle leaders in schools in the Alliance and beyond. More details on that to follow, as we begin to review and evaluate the project with a view to developing a longer term, sustainable offer for the future.

BEP READING PARTNERS

Things have moved on significantly in the TSA's role in the BEP Reading Partners project. During March, a team of TSA colleagues, working in pairs, met with leaders from the schools who had requested support, to review the progress and impact to date of their work to improve attainment and progress in reading.

These meetings gave colleagues the opportunity to share what is working really well, as well as to highlight approaches and aspects of the project that have not proved as effective as hoped. It has been great to hear about the work that schools are doing, successes so far and resources that they have found beneficial, all of which can be shared with colleagues involved in the project and more widely through BEP and TSA communications. It has also been useful to get feedback on the project for BEP, should they choose to use a similar model of partnership working in the future.

We wish Reading Partner colleagues all the very best to year 2 and year 6 in the upcoming SATs, and look forward to celebrating achievements at the Reading Partners 'Sharing and Celebration' event in July.

READING PARTNERS BOOK CLUB

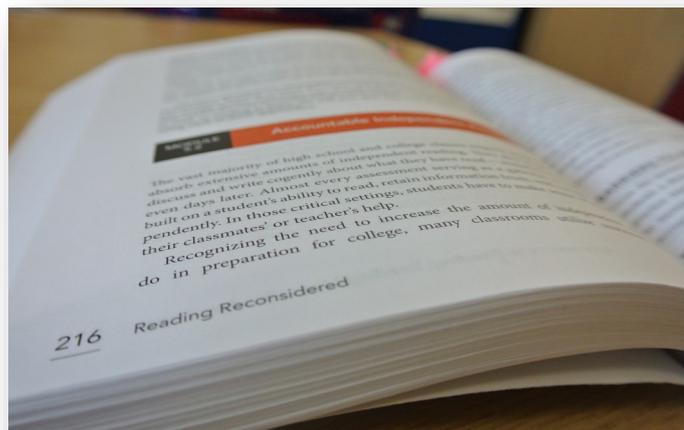
As part of the Reading Partners Project, a 'Book Club' was established, with members including BEP DCSI Tracy Ruddle, TS Manager Emma Arnott, and colleagues from a number of schools involved in the project.

Tracy chose the book: **Reading Reconsidered** by Doug Lemov, Colleen Driggs and Erica Woolway. Subtitled 'A Practical Guide to Rigorous Literacy Instruction', the book took us through a whole-school, cross-phase approach to teaching reading from the very earliest years, as preparation for academic success and the reading demands of College and University. At over 400 pages, with an accompanying CD of classroom examples, it was certainly a substantial text, and made for very interesting reading. It was very much about supporting pupils to develop good habits of reading, writing and discussion which they can use with increasing autonomy as they move through the school years. It gave much food for thought - and subsequent discussion at the Book Club meeting - as we considered such things as the importance of intentional text selection, the possibility of establishing a school or MAT-wide 'canon' of books that all children read, more explicit teaching of non-fiction texts, including with a focus on content and linking fiction and non-fiction texts and exploring what Lemov et al term 'The Core of the Core':

1. Read harder texts
2. 'Close read' texts rigorously and intentionally
3. Read more non-fiction effectively
4. Write more effectively in direct response to texts.

Across the Book Club we have agreed to write a summary of each chapter to be shared with colleagues across the city and that Club members will trial some of the suggested approaches and resources in their own classrooms, with a view to giving feedback and recommendations at the Reading Partners 'Sharing and Celebration' event in July.

If any colleagues are interested in finding out more details we are sure Book Club members would be happy to lend you their copy of **Reading Reconsidered** or talk further about it with you.



CLASS OF 2016/17

Our current cohort of School Direct trainees are progressing well through their training year. Having all passed their Development School assessed teaching placement with flying colours, they are now entering their final term as trainees, with a range of training sessions to further develop their skills and just one more assessed teaching placement to go. We wish them every success!



And, we're pleased to report, all our trainees have been successful in securing NQT posts for September 2017. Five of the six have been appointed to Alliance schools, so it will be really great to continue to work with them through their NQT year and beyond. The remaining member of the group will be taking up an NQT post in a school much closer to home. We will, of course, be sorry to see her go, but it's great to have supported another strong teacher to enter the system, and we know she's looking forward to not having to tackle the motorway every day to get to work!

SCHOOL DIRECT 2017/18

As our current cohort of trainees look to the end of their training year, preparations for welcoming the class of 2017/18 step up a pace!

We currently have 7 trainees for 2017/18, 6 of whom are on the salaried programme, and we have 1 training programme place still available. We are very keen to fill that final place, so if you know of anyone who may be interested in a career in teaching, please do encourage them to apply for our School Direct Programme, or contact the TSA to find out more.

All our salaried trainees have now been 'matched' to their Home School - the school in which they will undertake the majority of their training—so over the coming weeks they will be visiting and getting to know the children and colleagues with whom they will be working next year. We are also looking forward to 'officially' welcoming all our 2017/18 trainees to the programme on their Induction Day on 13 July 2017. We know from previous years what an important day that is for the trainees, and for the success of the Programme, as we establish expectations, provide opportunities for them to meet peers and school colleagues and allay their fears as they prepare to embark on their training year.

Meanwhile, our TS Manager Emma, and one of our SLEs for ITT and NQT development, Nicola Mills, are in the process of finalising the timetable and programme of training for next academic year. As colleagues whose schools have been involved in our School Direct programme in the past will know, in discussion with Newman University, each year we review and refine our programme in response to feedback from trainees, their School-based Tutors and the colleagues delivering the training, to ensure that it prepares our trainees as effectively as possible to begin their teaching careers. We know that we have a really strong programme - the training is always very highly evaluated by our trainees and through TSA and University quality assurance. Emma will soon be contacting colleagues about delivering the training sessions for next year's cohort.

NQT INDUCTION PROGRAMME - COHORT 6

Lana Gaskin is working hard putting together the programme for NQT6 for the next academic year. There will be a few tweaks to the current programme based on the feedback from deliverers and participants, in order to further improve the experience!

Over the next few weeks Lana will be approaching Headteachers and those colleagues who have delivered sessions in the past to ask whether they are willing and able to contribute to the 2017/18 programme.

Please let Shirley know the names of your NQTs as you appoint them.

The Cohort 6 programme commences on Tuesday 11 July 2017—please inform your newly appointed NQTs of this date; we will be contacting them individually in due course.

DIARY REMINDER FOR ALLIANCE HEADTEACHERS:

The next TSA Meet will be taking place at 1.30pm on Monday 10 July at Birmingham City Football Club.

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 Primary; Starbank; Story Wood School & Children's Centre; Ward End Primary; Wattville Primary; Welford Primary; Wyndcliffe Primary; Yardleys.

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