



DECEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 12

Teaching School Who's Who

Pat Smart

CEO/Executive Headteacher
E: p.smart@createpartnershiptrust.org.uk

Sheenagh Edger

Co-Headteacher Greet Primary School
E: s.edger@greet.bham.sch.uk

Emma Tyler

Co-Headteacher Greet Primary School
E: e.tyler@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

Dear Colleagues

The past couple of years have been difficult for the TS as we have worked to find our place alongside other organisations in the changing educational landscape. This has meant that offers of new events and training have been limited at times and the teaching school must have seemed very quiet for many of our partner schools. This academic year has seen a change in the leadership structure of the Teaching School as Emma T and Sheenagh have taken up the reigns of supporting the TS leadership alongside the work undertaken by Emma A and Shirley. We are all really committed to kick starting the role of the TSA and to reigniting the enthusiasm which was present at the TSA's inception.

All schools are being expected to do more with less and this means that we have to rely on the strengths and expertise of those around us. The TSA has a huge amount of this and we want to ensure that we continue to work together to ensure best value for all. An initial TSA meeting at the start of this term, closely followed by several meetings with the TSA Board, showed that the enthusiasm and interest for the TSA is absolutely still present and in fact it was felt to be even more important in these times of shrinking budgets. A programme of events has been designed for our partners over the next academic year and beyond, bearing in mind those things that we all felt were important to us and our schools' future development over the coming year but as always, all ideas are gratefully received.

As we come to the end of another very busy term we wish you all a very happy, healthy and restful Christmas and New Year.

Regards

1 Emma and Sheenagh

GOOD NEWS!

This term we welcomed many new colleagues to the Alliance: **Suneta Bagri** as HT of Leigh Primary; **Nick Lambert** as HT of Clifton; **Selina Lees** as HT of Brookfields; **Sarah Cross** as Acting HT of St. James CE and **Christine Lane** as Head of School at City Road. We also welcomed **Marlborough Junior School** as a new Alliance partner. We are delighted to offer congratulations to **Satnam Dosanjh** on her new role as Executive Headteacher at Starbank and to **Lillian de Lissa** Nursery School who recently had a **good** Ofsted inspection outcome.

Finally, we say farewell to **Jackie Powell** as Interim HT of Hodge Hill, and goodbye and good luck to **Samina Thorpe**, our original BTT teacher who leaves us to take up a post in another school in the city.

TSA EVENTS IN 2019

We are busy working to bring together a range of briefings, workshops and training events across the academic year for our Alliance partner schools. As a starting point please note the following dates for your diaries ...you'll have seen further information in our Clevermail+ alerts.

Thursday 24 January 2019: Safeguarding updates *twilight* with **Razia Butt**

Thursday 7 March 2019: Inference workshop with **Tony Whatmuff** - *am and pm sessions!*



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

We recently had a really positive meeting with colleagues from Oxford University Press (OUP) and discussed lots of exciting ways in which we can work together as part of our Teaching School offer.

We are currently working on plans to access Expert Practitioner led CPD through OUP and expect to be able to share this with you, in more detail, next term.

OUP have provided a variety of **free** classroom activity resources which can be used to make learning fun as we approach the end of term. These can be accessed by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: <https://global.oup.com/education/primary/campaigns/unwrap-christmas/?region=uk>

At the top of that web page you will see that OUP are offering a **10% discount** on their resources for orders placed before the end of term, using the promo code: XMAS10. *N.B. an annual price rise will be applied to all resources in January so it is worth taking advantage of the discount now!*

NEW OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE TEACHING SCHOOL

THE MUSEUM OF BRAVE AND CURIOUS

A few weeks ago we were contacted by the House of Fairy Tales children's arts charity who were looking for partners for a bid they are submitting to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development fund.

If successful, eight of our Alliance schools will take part in a 2-year research programme which will explore how creativity can be brought into the curriculum and used to promote the achievement of the most disadvantaged learners.

We will be keeping everything crossed that the bid is successful as we will all, in the long term, benefit from the research findings.

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT TRUST ACCELERATE PROGRAMME

Through the Association of Central Teaching Schools (ACTS) we will be supporting the creation of a **Midlands Delivery Hub** for the new Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund (TLIF) funded '**Accelerate**' project.

The project, targeted at early career teachers, will be available at no cost to recently qualified teachers working in schools in opportunity areas or those in Ofsted grade 3 or 4.

Further details will be available early in the new year. The programme will create some CPD opportunities for our system leaders in the delivery of coaching to participating RQTs. We'll keep you posted!

SCHOOL TO SCHOOL SUPPORT

As colleagues are aware, the major school improvement project in the city at the moment is the SSIF2 Reading Project, funded through the DfE Strategic School Improvement Fund, and Greet TSA is centrally involved in many aspects of the project.

The Teaching School, and many of our partner schools, are part of the project either as supporting or supported schools, so have benefited from the sharing of practice in partnership working and the CPD offered through whole day and twilight sessions. As you'll have seen earlier in this newsletter, we are really pleased to have secured a day of training for the Alliance from Tony Whatmuff - I'm sure that those colleagues who attended Tony's 'Making the invisible visible' workshop as part of the SSIF2 project can vouch for the quality of his training and its impact on their schools.

Another key aspect of the project is the work of the group of Specialist Leaders, co-ordinated by our Teaching School Manager, Emma. The activity of this group includes producing training resources, identifying, sharing and disseminating good practice more widely and supporting schools in implementing key aspects of the training, with a view to longer term sustainability. On this note, the group's next main focus is the SSIF2 area of the BEP website, and streamlining this to make it as user-friendly as possible for busy teachers and leaders so that the materials and resources continue to impact on improving practice beyond the 'life' of the project.

Emma has now also started to work with the group of Secondary Schools involved in the project, facilitating half termly joint practice development sessions for English Teachers and Heads of Department. There is some really fantastic work going on in KS3, as Secondary colleagues seek to build on the developments in Primary practice and spread the message about improving reading throughout their departments and schools.

Then, of course, there is the programme of reading twilight training sessions offered to all the schools in the project, which Emma has co-ordinated across five of the Birmingham Teaching Schools. These are great sessions, which draw on EEF research and excellent practice in schools. Over the four terms of the project, each of the seven sessions is being delivered four times in different areas of the city, so if staff haven't yet attended these, do take a look at the programme on the BEP website.

We are now halfway through the SSIF2 Reading project, and already thinking forward to the main aim: that all of the supported schools meet or exceed national expectations at ARE and GD in the year 6 SATs this coming summer. Pat and Emma, along with colleagues from the Alliance, BEP and other schools, will be holding a mid-point review in early January, so that lessons learnt can be distilled and any changes to the work implemented, to maximise achievement for pupils in all the schools involved. Keep an eye on our - and the BEP - website for more details on the outcomes of that review next term.

ITT/SCHOOL DIRECT

Firstly, congratulations to Adam Beaumont, our School Direct 2017/18 trainee who had deferred his final assessed placement. Having completed this placement at Greet in the autumn term, Adam successfully achieved QTS and has been appointed as an NQT at a school in the Alliance. It's great that Adam will be remaining in the Alliance, and joining his School Direct peers in the NQT induction programme from January.



SCHOOL DIRECT 2018/2019



Our School Direct class of 2018/19 have settled well into their Home Schools and had a very successful term.

So far this year, they have benefited from a varied programme of training delivered by colleagues across the TSA, as well as Masters Level training and development at Newman University. The photos show our trainees enjoying exploring practical Science activities, really bringing the subject to life!

After very positive first assessed teaching placements, they are now thinking ahead to next term and to getting to know their Development School (after a very well-earned break over Christmas of course!). We wish them all a restful break, and all the very best as they continue their training in the new year.



SCHOOL DIRECT 2019/2020

As ever with School Direct, we are now looking ahead to our next cohort - the class of 2019/20 - and recruitment is already well underway.

As those of you on Twitter will have seen, the TSA has been out and about at recruitment events, most notably the National Train to Teach roadshow, this year held again in the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham (UoB). Of course, the perfect location for us, as we have moved to work with UoB for School Direct 2019/20! We have already built good relationships with University colleagues, and are looking forward to working with them for our School Direct provision. Applications are coming in slowly and steadily, and after interviews last week we are recommending offers be made to 4 trainees for September 2019.

More marketing events are planned for next term, including a school-led ITT recruitment event organised through ACTS at the Clayton Hotel on **11 February**, the next National Train to Teach event at UoB on **25 February** and a variety of other formal and informal events organised by the University throughout the year.

Additionally, to support prospective applicants who have limited experience in schools, we're offering our **School Experience Programme** - a three day programme of immersion in schools from within our TSA. Having run the programme once this term, we are planning to offer another School Experience Programme in the spring term. A fantastic opportunity to find out more about the role of a Primary School teacher and the work of our Alliance schools. Our website and social media will have details of future events please share this with others who are interested in a career in teaching.

NQT INDUCTION PROGRAMME

This year's cohort of NQTs, ably led by Jo Jones and Alan Beale, had their first residential event in November and began with some ice-breaking activities which can be applied in the classroom.

Who wouldn't want to start a lesson with **Hello Jump?!**



The practical advice given over 1 1/2 days was highly valued, with NQTs coming away with lots of effective strategies, ideas and practical activities to take back into school. The enthusiasm felt at the end of the second day was evident with NQTs commenting: "inspirational" "I thoroughly enjoyed this" "very good networking discussions" "it was nice to talk to other NQTs about their experiences" "some thought provoking things ... made me reflect on my own practice" "it was a privilege to take part and I feel incredibly fortunate".

If you have any new NQTs starting next term please let us know by the end of term so that they can be included in the next residential in January.

A group of **Post NQTs** from across the Alliance and beyond are actively involved in a 3-session CPD programme designed to support their ongoing career development.

Already 2/3 of the way through the programme they have been delving into **Building Resilience** where they have focused on goal prioritisation and how to de-stress, as well as having time to reflect on their own thinking style and coping mechanisms.

Developing Pedagogy has introduced them to metacognition and how this can be used successfully in teaching. Those teachers involved have been inspired to find out more and many were going back to their own schools to share their learning with other colleagues!

A huge THANK YOU to all of the colleagues from our partner schools and organisations who have contributed to and supported the various aspects of the work of the teaching school.

There are too many people to name individually, but this includes: Headteachers; DHTs; AHTs; NLEs; SLEs; LLEs and teachers as well as consultants and our University colleagues.

A wide range of activities have been covered, including trainee teacher recruitment, teacher training, delivery of our CPLD programmes, school to school support, participation in research activities, and not forgetting those schools who have purchased our support.

We wish you all an enjoyable and restful Christmas break!



Our TSA Board:

Azita Zohhadi, (Nelson Mandela); Emma Arnott (TSA); Sheenagh Edger (Greet); Julie Greenwood (Leigh Trust); Joanne Hill (BCU); Jo Jones (Story Wood); Shirley Queenan (TSA); Pat Smart (TSA); Emma Tyler (Greet).

Our Alliance Partners:

Acocks Green Primary; Alston Primary; Anglesey Primary; Arden Primary; ARK Tindal Academy; Aston Tower Community; BCU; Beeches Infants; Benson Community; Blakesley Hall Primary; Bordesley Green Primary; Brookfields Primary; Canterbury Cross 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; Marlborough Juniors; Nansen Primary; Nelson Mandela; Newman University; Park Hill Primary; Redhill Primary; Regents Park Community; Robin Hood Primary; Shaw Hill Primary; Somerville Primary; St. Anne's Catholic Primary; St. James' CE Primary; St. John's CE Primary; Starbank; Story Wood School & Children's Centre; UoB; Ward End Primary; Wattville Primary; Welford Primary; Westminster Primary; Wyndcliffe Primary; Yardleys.

The Greet Teaching School Alliance

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

Tel: 0121 303 1587

Email: greettsa@greet.bham.sch.uk

www.greettsa.org



@greet_tsa