

## Teaching School Who's Who

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Dear Colleagues

We are in times of great change and no more so than at the Teaching School with our sad goodbye to Emma Arnott (see p2 of this newsletter) and the departure at the end of the summer term of Greet's co-HTs Sheenagh Edger and Emma Tyler. Alongside the changes to the growth, reach and success of Birmingham Education Partnership, we know that this reorganisation of school improvement in the city will have its impact on our Teaching School. This has been no surprise; we have recognised for some time that things will have to change. At the moment we are busily planning for the management of central leadership changes but nevertheless trying to maintain ongoing support for any schools that require it. Please continue to contact Shirley Queenan if you require any support, no matter how large or small. We recognise that schools no longer have big CPD budgets but you might want to commission shorter sessions - for a staff meeting or a few hours working with young leaders, etc. We will do our best to match you to excellent support. Many of our schools are struggling financially and have had to take some difficult decisions in terms of staffing ratios. Staff restructuring has become increasingly common practice for many of us. Despite the depressing nature of this activity, we have also gained some really good collective knowledge on the best ways to manage staff reductions through restructuring exercises, including work with governors or trustees and trade unions. Do contact us if you would like any support in managing these potentially tough situations and we will be able to put you in touch with people who can share their experiences and help to guide you through some of the trickier elements of the process. As we have learned, restructuring is more than managing HR processes - the emotional side is important too so that the school ethos isn't impacted.

So now we are already in May and that means the next round of SATs and other key assessments. Despite all the talk of less emphasis on data, I don't think we have a school in our alliance that is not focused on assessment!

Very best wishes to you all for the rest of this term.

Pat

## GOOD NEWS!

During the spring term we welcomed: **Clare Lucas** as Headteacher of Hodge Hill Primary; **Mark Sheehan** as Deputy Headteacher at Arden and two new partner schools, **Marlborough Infants** and **Yew Tree Primary**.

We are delighted to offer our **Congratulations** to: **Chandos, Arden and Park Hill** who were all rated **Good** at their recent Ofsted inspections. We also congratulate **Alicia Henry**, our BTT teacher, who welcomed baby Nelson in December and **Sam Mason** who has been appointed as Head of School at Greet from September

We said **farewell** and thank you to **Sue Smye**, Assistant Headteacher at Arden who retired at the end of term. Sue has delivered lots of CPD to the Alliance.

We very recently said **Au Revoir** to our Teaching School Manager, Emma Arnott, who has left us to take up a new role as Manager of City-Wide School Improvement Projects at BEP. Emma has been with us since the early days of the Teaching School's designation and we are very grateful for her contribution to shaping its direction thus far, and for supporting the growth of our Alliance of schools, not to mention the wide range of projects she has led across the city over the last 7+ years!

We are pleased that we will not be losing Emma altogether .... Her new role will see her staying in touch with us, as she involves us, and other Teaching Schools, in some of BEP's work.

We look forward to a new collaborative relationship with Emma!



## FREE OUP EXPERT EVENTS

### EXPERT EVENT: SUMMER 2019



As detailed in the last newsletter we are joining forces with Oxford University Press to offer free CPD opportunities to our partner schools.

Expert events are ring-fenced, in the first instance, to Alliance schools. Please make sure that you keep an eye out for emails and tweets about these events, as well as checking our website and Alliance Pin Board.

During the Summer term 2019 **Jean Gross** will lead a **Closing the Word Gap: What really Works** half day event on the afternoon of **Thursday 6 June**.

Places are free and can be booked via:

[www.jeangross-closing-june19.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.jeangross-closing-june19.eventbrite.co.uk)

### EXPERT EVENT: AUTUMN 2019

#### !SAVE THE DATE!

In the Autumn term 2019 a further Expert Event will be taking place on **Thursday 26 September 2019**.

This full day event will be led by 'Mathmagician' **Andrew Jeffrey** and is suitable for Senior Leaders and Maths Coordinators across the Primary age range. Bookings for this event '**The CPA Approach: How to get the Very Best from your Maths**' are now being accepted via:

[www.andrew-jeffrey-birmingham-sep19.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.andrew-jeffrey-birmingham-sep19.eventbrite.co.uk)



## SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

On Thursday 24 January we were joined by Razia Butt who gave us the latest Safeguarding updates from the City. This included work that has been undertaken by Razia and her BCC colleagues relating to 'Out of School Settings' (OOSS) and 'Building Resilience in Education'. At the time of the briefing, a consultation on a Draft Voluntary Code of Practice for OOSS was underway; this is being proposed in order to support all OOSS to ensure that they are following safeguarding best practice. Birmingham City Council are leading a 12 month DfE Pilot to improve Safeguarding in OOSS.

We look forward to hearing the outcomes of the consultation.

## NEW OFSTED FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION



On Monday 4 March, James McNeillie, Ofsted Assistant Regional Director West Midlands and Heather Simpson, HMI, came along to Greet to talk to us about the consultation underway for the proposed Ofsted Framework 2019. James talked through the rationale for the draft framework, highlighting the proposed changes as well as what is staying the same. He posed five questions to colleagues, asking for their level of agreement/disagreement with specific aspects of the proposal .... Headteachers left with a strong sense of how they would respond to the consultation, which closed at 11.45pm on 5 April.

## INFERENCE TRAINING



On Thursday 7 March we were joined by Tony Whatmuff who arrived in Birmingham, suitcase in hand, to deliver Inference training to 82 Leaders, Teachers and Teaching Assistants from 31 schools within, and beyond, the Alliance.

As Tony unpacked his case we watched with interest as he pulled out a variety of props to include toy cars, a thought bubble, an inference detector, and even a miniature nightclub bouncer! All were resources he uses to demonstrate how to encourage children to use their imagination and to help them relate to text and the task in hand. He introduced us to comprehension as "the dark side of reading" and highlighted the complexity of the English language, pointing out that 70% of its words have more than one meaning! Tony took us on a meandering and thought-provoking journey of the reading challenges our pupils face: vocabulary knowledge; background knowledge and narrow life experience and provided a range of strategies and approaches to support teachers to equip pupils to address those challenges.

He led 2 training sessions, morning and afternoon, to captivated audiences who described the sessions as "fantastic", "engaging" and "brilliant!". Many colleagues left commenting that they were going back to school armed with practical ideas that could be put to use straight away. Others said that they would be reflecting on the strategies learned and how they would implement them.

As the spring term draws to a close, our 2018/19 trainees are busy completing their assessed teaching placements in their Development Schools.

Over this term, in addition to further developing their classroom practice, our trainees have benefited from a variety of engaging and inspiring training sessions delivered by specialists from schools across the Teaching School Alliance. It is so fantastic for our trainees to have the opportunity to learn from expert classroom practitioners, as well as to visit schools across the TSA, and we are so grateful for colleagues' commitment in supporting our School Direct programme through preparing and delivering such high quality training.

After a well-earned break over Easter, our trainees will be thrust straight back into their final assessed teaching placement, back in their Home School, followed by some further training sessions before they complete the programme and are ready to embark as NQTs next year.

As they come to the end of a successful second placement, we wish them all the very best for the summer term. We are really pleased that a number of our trainees have already been appointed to NQT posts within the Alliance, so we will be continuing to follow their development through our NQT Induction programme and beyond.

And so on to our School Direct cohort for 2019/20 ..... Recruitment has been ongoing for a number of months now, and new applications are coming in regularly. As we have now moved to work with the University of Birmingham, inevitably we have had to make some changes to our recruitment systems and processes; as always, we are incredibly grateful for the dedication and commitment of the ITT working group, giving freely of their time to shortlist applications, host in-school observation tasks and sit on interview panels.

This term, we've been trialling a new system for shortlisting and organising interviews which aims to interview a candidate as soon as we can after receiving their application, to mitigate against losing strong candidates to other Providers who may interview more quickly. Already, we have made 7 offers of places, 6 of which have been accepted, so are pleased to be in a stronger position in terms of prospective trainees than at this point in previous years.

All our salaried places have now been filled, and that course is closed to new applications. However, we do still have a good number of training programme places still available, so if you have friends, colleagues or family members interested in a career in Primary teaching, please do encourage them to apply.

There's no standing still with ITT and School Direct, so we are already thinking forward to 2020/21!

We are very mindful of the importance of sustainability and the financial viability of our ITT offer, so the TSA Board has begun a conversation with the University of Birmingham about how we may be able to work together more closely and strategically, to mutual benefit. We are still in the very early stages of our thinking, but those conversations will be continuing over the coming weeks. It's also great that the Chair of our TSA Board and ITTWG, Azita Zohhadi, has been invited to join the University's Teacher Education Strategy Group, so will be a voice for us there and involved in shaping future ideas and provision.

On the subject of School Direct moving forward ... I am very pleased to confirm that Tania Yasmin, the Headteacher at Conway Primary School, and Nicola Mills, Deputy Head at Conway and our SLE for ITT development, have agreed to take on the leadership of School Direct once I leave my post as Teaching School Manager. Both have had significant involvement in our School Direct programme and are passionate about teacher development, so I know that I am leaving the programme in safe hands!

Finally, I would like to say a particular thank you to Azita Zohhadi and to Nicola Mills for all their support for me in establishing the strong, high quality and successful School Direct Programme that we have at Greet TSA. Both have been involved from our very first year of School Direct, have given generously of their time and support, and have been instrumental in shaping and developing the Programme to support our trainees as the best possible start to their teaching careers.

**Emma Arnott, April 2019**

## NQT INDUCTION PROGRAMME

Looking ahead to the national rollout of the Early Career Framework for Teachers in September 2021 we are currently reviewing our NQT Induction Programme.

Ever mindful of tightening budgets we will be making a few tweaks to the programme for 2019/2020 to make it fit for a new generation of teachers.

## CUREE CPD STANDARDS PATHWAY TOOL

During the Summer and Autumn terms we will be running a pilot programme around the Curee CPD Standards Pathway Tool. We will be seeking 10 schools from the Alliance who would like to take part in this project. This will involve two members of staff attending 2 workshops overall, working in groups with other schools as well as some gap tasks in between the termly sessions.

If you are interested in taking part please let Shirley know.

*\* A reminder that the Pin Board on our web portal has events and other useful info - log in regularly to see what is on offer \**

### 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 Infants; 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; Yew Tree Community.

### The Greet Teaching School Alliance

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