



TEACHING SCHOOLS
EAST



Welcome to the February edition of our local newsletter for teaching school alliances in the East of England. This one is longer than ever and contains important information for all teaching schools.

A key government announcement in January was that we are now to have two additional Opportunity Areas in the region - based on the Fenlands and East Cambridgeshire, and Ipswich. Norwich was announced previously in October. These regions are going to attract additional support in terms of school to school support, school improvement and interventions to raise standards and that means extra resources for teaching school alliances. It has been apparent since Justine Greening's announcement in October that the Secretary of State now sees teaching schools and teaching school alliances as the drivers of school to school support and school improvement. And, just to underline this, the annual £40,000 payment to all teaching schools is guaranteed for another two years.

That, in turn, stresses the role of the Teaching School Council in making this happen and developing a powerful voice on behalf of teaching schools. As one example, the TSC is asking for a clear picture of how initial teacher training is going to work and agreement over what part teaching schools have to play in that process - and the good news is that NCTL is listening to what we have to say.

The planning for our system leader conference is gearing up this month and we hope it will be the biggest and the best so far. Please do note the date and consider sending more than one delegate. The discounts are good and the anecdotal evidence suggests that when a leadership team attends they take the learning back into schools and apply it more effectively.

Lesley Birch

Eastern Region TSC



Lesley Birch is the East of England TSC representative and Executive Principal of the Cambridge Primary Education Trust (CPET).

Viv Keller-Garnett, Jim Sweetman and Sue Hammond provide support and Mark Lambell from SDSA is the administrator.

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Find us on Twitter: @TSCEastern

Dates for Your Diary

February 6: TSA and NLE Recruitment round opens.

April 21: System Leader Conference at the Genome Centre, Cambridge

Regional News

EAST OF ENGLAND SYSTEM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2017



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Friday 21st April 2017

**Wellcome Genome Campus
Conference Centre, Hinxton, Cambridge**

**Keynote speaker: Dame Alison Peacock
Guest speaker: Penny Mallory**

Presentations led by Teaching Schools,
Regional School Commissioner
and local system leaders.

Cost: £150 for first delegate
£100 per additional delegate
(in same school or Academy Trust)

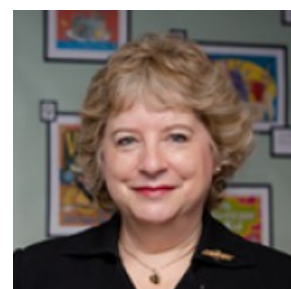
To book places, please email
Eastern@histonimpington-jun.cambs.sch.uk
Closing date: Friday 14th April 2017



Get Booked In Now!

The 2017 system leader conference is planned to be the biggest yet. As keynote speaker, we are delighted to have Dame Alison Peacock who has just taken on an important role as CEO with the new Chartered College of Teaching. This new organisation will work in partnership with unions and associations and will be responsible for teacher standards, professional ethics and developing the knowledge base of the profession.

Later in the conference, Penny Mallory will be talking about her life and the psychology of success. She went from being a seriously troubled teenager to becoming the first woman in the world to compete in a World Rally Car. She then became National Ladies Champion Rally Driver in 1993 and is now well known as an exciting and challenging motivational speaker.



If there is somebody else in your organisation who would like to receive this regional newsletter each month, send their email address to [Mark Lambell](mailto:Mark.Lambell). To submit news about your TSA email [Jim Sweetman](mailto:Jim.Sweetman)

Regional News

More on Opportunity Areas

As noted, the DFE has announced that there will be new Opportunity Areas in our region. We will now have them in Fenland and East Cambs, Ipswich and Norwich. In these regions, the intention is that there will be a special focus on raising standards and on school improvement and teaching school alliances will be central to this.

It seems likely that this new initiative will be additionally funded so that the teaching schools involved can build capacity to support the necessary improvement. If your Alliance is interested in taking part contact the DFE by email [here](#). Also, discuss this with your sub regional TSC lead as we need coherent plans for these areas and collaboration with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Teaching School and System Leader Application Round

The next application round for teaching schools, national support schools and NLEs runs from February 6 to February 26. It will be targeted on specific areas where there is greatest need so there is likely to be a focus on primary in most parts of the East. However, in areas close to the new Opportunity Areas, primary and secondary are certain to be included. The details of this will be included on the uk.gov pages when the application round opens. Remember that the criteria have changed so check your eligibility [here](#).

Foundation Years News

Did you know that there is a regular newsletter covering foundation years and the January edition is available [here](#). It contains an interesting article on ITT.

A New Website -

<http://teachingschoolseast.org>

Alongside these regular newsletters for schools in the region, we are developing our own [website](#). It is early days yet and we hope to have more to say about it in March. However, if your TSA publishes a newsletter or you have new CPD which you think might be of interest to other schools, get in touch. The more we network, the stronger we can become.

And a new Twitter feed

We now have a regional twitter feed @TSCEastern. If you have a twitter account, please follow us and help to turn this feed into a useful information source for all schools in the region.

The Key Information Form

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this data gathering exercise. It is planned that it will be repeated in September 2017 and there is currently a [feedback survey](#) available to identify improvements to the system. Given the many problems that schools had in accessing and completing this form, please reply to the survey to suggest ways in which the process can be made more convenient for schools.

Anecdotally, it has been reported that the East of England submitted more of its forms by the deadline than any other area of the UK!

Aspire to Headship Conference 2017

The AWDG Aspire to Headship Conference took place at Newmarket Racecourse on January 27. Claire Coates, Al Mistrano and Glenn Russell provided an informative and entertaining morning and ocean rower, Sarah Outen, closed an excellent day. See more on the [website](#).

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Teaching School News

Mastering Mathematics

The Benfleet Teaching School Alliance is offering a secondary Mastering Mathematics course for non-specialists or returning teachers. It consists of 40 hours of face-to-face tuition in a series of twilight sessions and commences on February 20. If you're not in Essex but like the sound of the programme contact Denise Mair (DeniseM@thekjs.com).

The TSA is also running a Hot Topic Book Group using podcasts. It is a neat way to save reading time. The first one is based on the podcast from the BBC R4 series "The Educators" and the work of John Hattie.

To find out more, visit the Benfleet TSA website: www.benfleet-teaching-school.co.uk

LLE Update

The Local Leader of Education designation has been entirely devolved to Teaching School Alliances since December 2016. This means that TSAs can accredit their own local leaders. This is helpful in some ways but a degree of collaboration could mean that we have a better qualification.

To explore this further, representatives from TSAs have been invited to come to a meeting at Northstowe School on March 1 with the aim of agreeing a regional framework for TSAs to work with in order to make the appointments and designation process slightly more rigorous. It may also be possible to develop a directory of LLEs similar to that which is planned for SLEs.

The meeting is full but if you would like to be involved in these developments as they move forward contact [Viv Keller-Garnett](#).

Developing EAL expertise in Luton and beyond

A collaboration between Cambridge-based language education charity, The Bell Foundation, Luton First Teaching School Alliance and Luton Borough Authority will see the development of a Centre of EAL Expertise for the Luton and Bedford regions. The three partners will work together to train and upskill local practitioners to deliver The Bell Foundation's Language for Results training programme, which aims to improve the attainment of young people who speak English as an Additional Language, and to create sustainable, consistent and effective support for schools.

The programme will include training on The Bell Foundation's EAL Assessment Framework for Schools. The Framework, which is now available free of charge to all schools in the UK has been developed by a team of leading EAL Assessment experts at the University of Cambridge and Kings College London, and is informed by robust academic research. The Bell Foundation has also worked closely with teachers to ensure that it is classroom-friendly. The partners are committed to an evidence-based approach, and will monitor the impact of the training programme and the EAL Assessment Framework with an external evaluator.

For more information about training opportunities and how to get involved, please contact [Tony Cotton](#) at Luton First.

Organising new CPD? Setting up a new project or initiative? Share it with your TSA colleagues through our newsletter and website. Tell us about it and we can spread the word! Send a brief summary to [Jim Sweetman](#).

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Regional News

Wickford TSA's LGBTQI Project- Courageous Leaders

Jane Robinson, Wickford Teaching school Alliance Director, describes the project

Wickford TSA received funding from the DfE to improve the promotion chances for LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex) teachers seeking leadership opportunities. The first challenge was to recruit the appropriate number of teachers. This was achieved through the support of the Teaching Schools across the East of England, especially Doug Brechin from the Cambridge & Suffolk Schools Alliance. We also used our website & twitter account to promote the project and were successful in recruiting, amongst our ten LGBTQI teachers, a potential leader from Yorkshire and two from East London.

I started to think about our Launch Event and really wanted to have an inspirational speaker to open the event. Angela Cass from West Essex Teaching School Alliance shared our vision with her Head teachers and two came forward to speak at the event and offer mentoring. One of our mentors from the IOE felt so inspired by her visit to one of Angela's schools that she said she would try to place her trainee teachers in this school.

Our Launch Event was a huge success and included a morning of workshops exploring sexuality and gender, leadership traits and skills. In the afternoon, the delegates visited a variety of settings dependent on their leadership ambitions. Two of our delegates went to Anglia Ruskin University to visit the academic who is to spearhead our research and development.

The project is hugely exciting and has been made possible with the help of TSA colleagues across Essex. We may be a large borough but we are cohesive and collaborative, despite our geographical challenges!

SLE Update

NCTL has published a new SLE toolkit. In the East of England we accredit our own SLEs and our process meets the standards outlined in the toolkit. In addition, the toolkit has a DfE SLE certificate for TSAs to use and also a useful review of designation guidance which you can find [here](#).

The region is also compiling a new directory of SLEs (the previous NCTL information contained inaccuracies). All the listed SLEs will have undergone an application process and training. The directory will be updated regularly and added to our website for use by schools and local authorities across the Eastern Region as well as by the two Regional Schools Commissioners officers.

We are also making moves to quality assure the SLE accreditation in the region. St Thomas More TSA in Bedford and Chiltern TSA in Luton were NCTL designated SLE training centres prior to SLE recruitment being devolved to TSAs. As training centres they were quality assured by NCTL.

Having been through this process Susanne Combs at St Thomas More and Chris Gill at Chiltern TSA have agreed to undertake a quality assurance exercise for our six regional training centres during the summer term. This work will be funded by the SLE pilot. It will be a collaborative process working with the training centres and developing the necessary documents to support peer-to-peer quality assurance in subsequent years.

Calling all HTs! Been in your current - 'Good' -school as head teacher for three years? Are results moving upwards? Are you involved in school-based ITT and CPD. If so, you should be thinking about an application to become a teaching school. It is easy to apply and you get generous funding. So, start helping other schools and build the school led system! Contact your sub regional lead!

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