



Bishop Rawstone Teaching School Alliance Newsletter

Welcome to this term's edition of the Bishop Rawstone teaching school newsletter which we hope will provide a quick update of where we are as we approach the end of the school year.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have a small number of schools working together to explore ways to strengthen formative assessment and the impact of providing feedback to students **without using levels**. An update of what we have been doing so far can be accessed [here](#) and this will contribute to a central report that will include details of other projects taking place across the country. We will be able to share this report with partner schools as soon as it is received.

On the subject of research, on the 30th June, we held a celebration event to mark the end of the first year of our whole school **action research** programme. A number of colleagues presented their findings on ideas such as the power of triple impact marking, the flipped classroom approach, effective differentiation and the impact of speaking and listening on achievement. Following the success of this year's programme, we intend to continue our research and development work next year with staff continuing their work or joining new projects. The Action Research blog on our Teaching School [website](#) will soon feature the findings of such projects so that colleagues from across the alliance can access ideas and resources.

Our **SLEs** (Specialist Leaders in Education) are continuing to support schools in challenging circumstances in Knowsley, Fleetwood and Warrington and following the latest application round, we are pleased to welcome several new SLEs to the team. Training for new colleagues will take place at the beginning of the next academic year and dates will be sent out in September. There are also plans to involve some of our SLEs in the delivery of the subject knowledge training for our teacher trainees which we hope will provide very focused and highly relevant training for a number of subject areas. With regards to the school to school support offered by our SLEs, we are pleased to offer reduced rates and discounted packages for five days including pre and post-inspection packages. Our website will shortly feature the revised prices and packages available.

In this term's newsletter

**Research and development
update**

**Specialist Leaders of
Education**

**Subject Knowledge Delivery
for ITT**

**Continuous Professional
Development Opportunities**

**SCITT and School Direct
places**

On the 11th June, the Aspirant Headteachers' programme came to an end with a celebration event at Queen Katherine's school in Kendal. Over thirty aspirant headteachers 'graduated' with some already having secured posts as headteachers for September. We are planning to contribute to this highly successful programme next year, in association with a number of other teaching schools and further details will follow when available. Details regarding **leadership programmes** can also be found under the Professional Development section of our website along with any bursaries that may be available throughout the academic year.

All of our associate teachers who have been actively looking for an NQT position have now secured a post for September which gives us a 90% success rate in terms of employment. Your hard work in supporting the alliance's involvement has certainly helped us to achieve outstanding outcomes including the fact that no associate teachers were graded as less than good with three-quarters of them graded as outstanding. We are continuing to recruit to the **SCITT and School Direct** programmes over the summer and are hoping to fill a few more places leading to a recruitment total in the mid-twenties. Looking further ahead, an allocation of 36 secondary SCITT places has already been requested for September 2015 across our usual range of subjects. We are also piloting a new assessment matrix and placement pattern on behalf of the University of Cumbria from September 2014. For more information on ITT places or potential NQT vacancies for next September, please contact David Mason, dmason@bishopr.co.uk.

Our **CPD programme** is looking better than ever this year and we will be promoting a variety of free sessions under the headings of 'Whole School Development', 'Subject Specific Pedagogy for Learning' and 'Leadership'. If your school is running training sessions that could be attended by colleagues from alliance schools, please let us know and we can feature them on our 2014-2015 programme. Likewise, if there are colleagues who wish to attend some of the sessions that are running throughout the year, please complete and return the online application form or contact Nicky Dimmer, ndimmer@bishopr.co.uk. We are also planning to hold our first **TeachMeet** on Wednesday 17th September, 2014 and Wednesday 11th March, 2015 where colleagues from across the alliance can take the lead, share practice, discover new ideas, network and be inspired all during the course of one CPD fuelled evening. Further information will follow in September.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very relaxing summer break and to advise you that David Mason will be taking over in September as Director of Teaching School. Regardless of my change in my role, I still hope however, to be involved with some Teaching School activities and look forward to working with you on a range of exciting initiatives next year. As always, we really appreciate the feedback we get from our partner schools, so if you have any comments or views please continue to feed them through.

Caroline Lane

Bishop Rawstone Teaching School Alliance