



WINCHESTER

TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Welcome to the second newsletter produced by the team at WTSA. Now eighteen months into our journey, the range of our work continues to widen and we are pleased to provide you with an update for the new academic year.

As always, our activity is focused around three areas: teacher training, professional development and school to school support. If you want to find out more about any aspect of our work, please either contact us on enquiries@wtsa.info or have a look at our website at www.wtsa.info.

Rob Jeckells
WTSA Director



A New Course, One Year On...

The 2016/17 academic year saw the first cohort of WTSA School Direct trainee teachers complete their training year in host schools and at The University of Winchester.

Our primary and secondary trainees have secured employment as newly qualified teachers with the majority remaining within WTSA schools. It is also the case that all members of this first cohort were graded as either Good or Outstanding and it is our aim for this pattern to be replicated in future years. Feedback from trainees about the course has been excellent overall and we have revised and improved some elements of it as well to make it even better for our new group of trainees.

With seventeen School Direct trainees gaining Qualified teacher Status (QTS) and completing PGCEs in the summer, currently we have 24 new trainee teachers in our 2017/18 group. Numbers on our courses continue to grow as word of WTSA School Direct spreads and teachers who have qualified with us, now working in the local area, speak about their training and career paths.

We will be recruiting from late October onwards for places on our 2018/19 Primary and Secondary School Direct programmes and we will be attending the Train to Teach Roadshow at the Novotel, Southampton on 9th November 2017. If you would like to attend this event or would be interested in finding out more generally about training to teach with Winchester Teaching School Alliance, please contact Maggi Edwards, WTSA Coordinator on enquiries@wtsa.info.



Forthcoming Recruitment Events

Train to Teach Roadshow
Thursday 9th November
4.30 pm—8.00pm

at

Novotel
West Quay Road
Southampton

CPD Update

Once again, planning is well underway for what will be our third annual Common Closure Day which will take place on Friday 26th January 2018. We are currently looking at offering over 30 events hosted at various venues across Winchester with many of the sessions being delivered by our Specialist Leaders in Education and Leaders of Excellent Practice as well as a number of external providers.

We are very excited this year to welcome Guest Speaker Andy Whittaker who will be hosting a session in the afternoon at Thornden Hall in Chandlers Ford. Andy is passionate about education and accelerated learning. There is an invite for all staff working in WTSA schools to attend this event which we hope will prove to be engaging, motivational and highly enjoyable.

This Common Closure Day will be the largest event we have organised and will provide access to high quality CPD across the Alliance at a time when budgets are squeezed and value for money so important.

We are also currently planning a number of courses this year which will be delivered across the Winchester Teaching Schools Alliance including:

- A re-vamped course for Recently Qualified Teachers
- A Middle Leadership Course
- A programme for Aspiring Subject Leaders for Secondary Phase teachers
- A programme for Aspiring Senior Leaders for Primary Phase teachers

Subject Network meetings will begin in the Autumn Term and there will be three sessions on offer for Newly Qualified Teachers across the Winchester Secondary Schools.



StSS Update

Year One of our School to School Support Project working with Winton Community Academy in Andover has been a great success and has supported them in achieving the best results the school has achieved in many years. 61% of students achieved a grade 5 or above in English and Maths, whilst 75% of students gained a 4 or above in English and 67% in Maths.

When Kings' started working with Winton, the academy was in the depths of special measures but is now driving hard for a 'good' outcome from an anticipated inspection this year. Without this focused partnership work, Winton's high attaining (HAT) students would not have made the progress they have made.

The focus of the project has been on raising aspirations and increasing the outcomes for high and middle ability students in the academy. This year, as a result of the work with Kings', the number of A* and A grades in the school has tripled. Winton has also seen increases in the number of students attaining passes in English, Maths and Science, all of which have been areas of focus in the work we have done together.

Students at Winton and Kings' found the joint visits to each other's schools very beneficial. 20 students were involved in the HAT sessions at King's School. Students completed a questionnaire before and after the visits. 100% of Winton students found the trip beneficial. When questioned later in the year, 80% felt it had changed their attitude towards their personal study whilst 90% felt that they worked harder as a result of the work with Kings'. 75% of students felt that it changed the way their teachers worked with them in lessons (this was particularly evident in English). Students were encouraged by the visit to Kings' that they had the same potential as the Kings' students but needed to work harder. For many in the cohort, this visit triggered a change in their work ethic which for many led to excellent, and in some cases exceptional, results. They came back very proud of their school and very keen to achieve good results. 40 students were also involved in a TED Conference organised by Kings' about which students were all very positive and 95% of students involved said that they wanted to do something like this again.

The parents have been fully involved in the project and were initially nervous that the perception was that Kings' was 'better' than Winton and Kings' students were being held up as 'superior' to Winton students in some way. This was completely dispelled through the visits and through the talks from Kings' staff to Winton parents.

Moving into Year Two, the project is now focusing on Science and Humanities, with Winton having one morning a week of support from the previous Head of Science at Kings' who is developing the capacity of Science leadership to aim for even better results this year. Year One has had a huge impact and the Winton Leadership Team are confident Year Two will move the academy forward again.



Nathan Thomas
Headteacher, Winton Community Academy

