



# WINCHESTER

## TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Welcome to the fourth newsletter from Winchester Teaching School Alliance (WTSA). I am delighted to have assumed the role of Director of the alliance in September, taking over from my colleague at Kings' School, Rob Jeckells. Rob will continue to have a role within WTSA, as Chair of the CPLD group, and I know he is already working alongside leaders in other schools, planning two exciting opportunities that are outlined here in the CPLD Update.

We are now in our third year as a Teaching School Alliance and continue to run our own bespoke School Direct teacher training programme, working closely with the University of Winchester. We have recruited again strongly this year and look forward to continuing to provide well trained primary and secondary school professionals for our local schools and beyond.

Since WTSA's formation, we have also afforded a wide variety of CPLD opportunities to existing professionals and have completed a number of School to School Support Projects. In these two areas, as in all our work, we have aimed to develop classroom pedagogy, pastoral support and leadership capacity in order to maintain and raise standards of education.



We remain absolutely committed to working in partnership with local schools and if you want to find out more about any aspect of our work, please either contact us contact us via [enquiries@wtsa.info](mailto:enquiries@wtsa.info) or look at our website at [www.wtsa.info](http://www.wtsa.info)

Richard James  
WTSA Director



## WTSA School Direct:

The 2017/18 academic year saw another highly successful cohort of WTSA School Direct trainee teachers complete their training year in host schools in the Winchester area. In total, 20 trainee teachers successfully completed the course that we run across Primary and Secondary phases. All of the WTSA 2017/18 trainee teachers who obtained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) have subsequently gained employment — with nearly all of them remaining in the local area and around half now employed as Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) in the schools in which they trained.

Feedback from those who have completed our School Direct course has been excellent overall and we are constantly looking to make revisions and improvements to it in order to make sure that future cohorts receive training that is as good or even better!

Colleagues in WTSA schools are central to the continued success of our programme. They work together to provide school-based training days and also a number of them provide fantastic support and guidance for individual trainee teachers by assuming the role of in-school mentor.

Moving forward, we have nearly 30 energetic new School Direct trainees who seem to have made a great start to this year's course. This is our biggest cohort so far and we are delighted by the fact that we have so many new entrants to the profession choosing to train to teach with us.

We will be recruiting once again from October onwards for places on our 2019/20 Primary and Secondary School Direct programmes and will be attending the Train to Teach Roadshow in Southampton in February. If you would like to attend the event or would be interested in finding out more generally about training to teach with Winchester Teaching School Alliance, please contact Maggi Edwards, WTSA Co-ordinator on 01962 861161 or via [enquiries@wtsa.info](mailto:enquiries@wtsa.info)

**WTSA will be  
attending the  
Train To Teach  
Event**

on

**Tuesday 26th  
February 2019**

**4.30pm—  
7.30pm**

at

**Novotel  
Southampton  
Hotel**

## CPLD Update

During the past academic year, WTSA has continued to respond to the CPLD requests and needs of alliance partner schools. Our Common Closure Day in January, which now is a well established part of the annual cycle in local schools, is the centrepiece of our work but there are numerous other CPLD opportunities that have been offered, or are due to take place in the coming months.

A group of Primary Phase school leaders have just completed a 6 Session programme specifically designed to meet their needs whilst a cross-phase programme for those about to assume, or new to, school leadership roles, is commencing this month. We have called this 'Getting the Best from Your Team' - and if it sounds like something you would be interested in, do let us know.

Meanwhile, our 2019 Common Closure Day will take place on 25 January. Currently it is planned that there will be more than 20 training and development sessions taking place in the morning across Winchester. These range from the Hampshire Outdoor Leaders course to Metacognition for Primary Colleagues—hopefully, there will be something for everyone!

In the afternoon, our guest speaker will be Chris Sweeney from Pivotal Education. Chris has worked closely with Paul Dix, the author of the best selling book on behaviour management in schools, 'When the Adults Change, Everything Changes' and he will be speaking at Kings' School between 1.30 pm and 3.00 pm.

We are also delighted to announce that following requests from Primary colleagues for a programme specifically for them which focuses on Mental Health issues, we will have one commencing after Christmas. This will involve 6 after school sessions following a launch event on our Common Closure Day. Further information about how to apply for places will be sent to alliance Primary Schools in the near future. At this stage, we would like to offer a huge thank you to Sonia White, headteacher at Osborne Special School for agreeing to lead this programme and also to colleagues who regularly attend our WTSA CPLD Group meetings for providing us with important input about the content of the course.



## One of our WTSA Newly Qualified Teachers tells her story

When I graduated from university as a mature student in 2013, I knew I had an inclination for teaching. What I didn't have was a route in. Whilst my undergraduate degree university could offer a traditional university based PGCE route (Primary or Secondary) into teaching, I felt that my 30 year absence of school experience made me unprepared for the rigours of teacher training.

Instead, I sought school experience as a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) for a diverse range of students. Instead of the anticipated year to build up experience and get an overview of the education system, I spent 3 valuable years acquainting myself with, and contributing to, the daily operations, education services and duty of care bestowed by a secondary school in WTSA.

Whilst 3 years of LSA experience is not necessary for School Direct placements, this job affirmed my wish to teach. I vicariously learned a wealth of teaching practices from observing lessons outside my subject specialism, gained the perspectives of both teachers and students and became familiar with many of the nuances of an education system.

By taking the route of LSA and School Direct training into teaching, I feel that I prepared effectively for employment as a Newly Qualified Teacher and a career in teaching. I highly recommend teaching as a career and would say that gaining prior experience in a school before applying for a teacher training course is immensely helpful.



Karen— WTSA Secondary School Direct Trainee Teacher