

COLLABORATION WORKS



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! We had a fantastic finish to 2019 and we have so many exciting things to look forward to in 2020. The great thing about working in education is that we get the chance to have two 'New Years' - the academic one in September and of course this one! Whatever your plans are this year we wish you all the best.

Last term was a fun-filled busy one for us at the Alliance for Learning. Our partnership work continues to strengthen, and you will read all about our new MFL Network, our PSHE Hub (re-launching in February) and our exciting Culcheth SCITT Campus in this newsletter. We can also update you on our work with the Princes Teaching Institute, Ambition Institute and of course our ever growing GM Mentally Healthy Schools and Colleges Programme.

We continue to support other MATS and teaching schools and last term we had a visit from Dixon's MAT who were keen to explore the relationship between our teaching school and our MAT. We're also pleased to be working with Blackpool Research School, at St Mary's Catholic Academy, to help share the best of evidence-based practice.

Another of the schools within our Teaching School Alliance, Alexandra Park Primary in Stockport, has been designated as an Associate Research School as part of the Education Endowment Fund (EEF) Research School Network. We have launched a joint

offer with them to create more visible access to this research and communicate best practice across the schools we work with.

Working with The Prince's Teaching Institute, our Blackpool Leadership Coaching Programme is helping to support Senior and Middle Leadership teams working together to raise attainment and progress in Blackpool schools.

Finally, I'm delighted to welcome another 40 SLEs to our school improvement team and I was so impressed by the quality of applicants. I'm also thrilled to announce our teaching school alliance has grown again, taking us up to 90 schools now. Welcome to Dallam School, Briscoe Lane Academy, Kentmere Academy, Old Hall Drive Academy, Seymour Road Academy, Stamford Park Junior School, Pikes Lane Academy, St Anne's Academy, Stamford Park Infant School, The Derby High School, Walmsley CE School, Woodbank Primary School, Birchwood High School, Callands Community Primary School, Barrow Hall Primary School and Blackpool-based St Georges.

I hope you enjoy reading about our latest work and I wish you a happy, healthy 2020.

Best wishes,

Lisa Fathers

Director of Teaching School & Partnerships

Partnerships



Languages in the spotlight - MFL and EAL

We've been collaborating with specialist Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) provider, the Primary Languages Network to deliver best practice for primary languages teaching and learning. We now offer CPD training opportunities for MFL coordinators, Newly Qualified and Recently Qualified Teachers. The partnership also offers primary language teaching and planning resources designed for language specialists and non-specialist teachers, plus a visiting primary languages teacher service for schools. As a partner school you'll be able to access a custom dashboard to share ideas, resources and examples of work. We are using the expertise with our SCITT trainees too. This is a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with one another in the area of MFL.

Our first conference will take place on 13 January at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls (9-11am). To book your place email rharrison@aggs.bfet.uk

We've been delighted to see the enthusiasm for our partnership with EAL Hub and our first conference in October was well attended. We have already helped over 20 schools with their EAL provision.



GM Mentally Healthy Schools and Colleges

In the Autumn, we welcomed our new schools for phase three of the GM Mentally Healthy Schools and Colleges Project. We now have 125 schools and colleges involved and have hosted a series of introductory engagement events. The Youth Sport

Trust's athlete mentor sessions with students are also now underway in schools and as a result of the work we are doing and our close links with health teams in Greater Manchester, Lisa is pleased to have been asked to co-chair the new Mental Health in Education Board for Manchester. This brings together educational institutions and local mental health support teams across the region.



Sport England PE Teacher Delivery Hub

We are really starting to see impact of our work as a PE and Sport Hub. This is funded via Sport England and in partnership with AfPE, the Activity Alliance and the Youth Sport Trust, a consortium aiming to ensure that this has impact in the classroom and beyond. We are working with 34 schools to foster positive attitudes towards physical activity and encourage greater participation among students, while providing specialist training for PE teachers. Former badminton world champion and silver Olympic medalist, Gail Emms MBE, is hosting a training workshop for PE teachers across the North West at The Sutton Academy and we have also arranged CPD events including Yoga, Mindfulness for PE teachers, Lacrosse, Boxing, Handball and Netball. Schools can also bid for £400 for individual projects. We've approved 18 so far including resources for orienteering and spikeball.

Early Careers Framework

Our partnership bid with Ambition Institute to help develop the Early Careers Framework (ECF) in Greater Manchester has been successful. This is part of a national agenda aiming to retain teachers who are new to the profession by improving the support they receive in their initial teaching years. As we are in an early roll out area, this will be launched in September 2020.

Professional Development/Leadership

In responding to the needs of schools in our alliance and across the North West, you'll have seen that we have completely reviewed and refreshed our CPD offer for 2019/2020 to include more courses than ever before.

Our new brochure has been well received and our mental health outreach team have been inundated



Record Numbers on Leadership Programmes

with bookings for staff INSET around mental health awareness. We've already taken bookings for 2020/21! If you have any further ideas about CPD you'd like to see us offer, please get in touch.

School to School Support



SLEs and the new Ofsted framework

We have recruited another 40 Specialist Leaders in Education (SLEs) and in December we held an induction and CPD session to welcome them. We hosted bespoke training for our newest SLEs and our whole SLE team explored the new Ofsted framework, hearing from Senior Ofsted HMI, Vincent Ashworth. Over 140 SLEs came together at AGGS and topics discussed included the importance of coaching as a skill, self-reflection and the importance of on-going quality assurance.

We now have a broad team with experience in a range of subjects including Art, Business Management, Drama, Design Technology, English, Information Technology, Maths, Humanities, PE, PSHE and Science.

Speaker opportunities

We often share our knowledge and best practice by speaking at conferences. So far this term Lisa Fathers has spoken at the North West Youth Sport Trust Headteacher Ambassador Conference on the topic of mental health. Kal Hodgson (Principal at Cedar Mount Academy) and Dawn Mitchell (MHFA England National Trainer) have spoken at the Liverpool Headteachers' Conference on the subject of curriculum planning and mental health. Lisa is also speaking at the Active Schools Conference.





Alliance for
Learning SCITT

Train Teach Transform

Initial Teacher Training/SCITT



Teacher training at

Culcheth Campus

in partnership with Alliance For Learning SCITT

As a large teaching school we are always keen to expand in innovative ways and our new hub working model with Culcheth does just that. Culcheth High School have become a satellite campus for our SCITT. The model will see Culcheth recruit their own trainees for 2020-21, where they will complete their first placement before moving to their alternative setting. The programme for the Culcheth campus will be led by Jodie Lomax, Teacher of RE and Lead Teacher of Research at the high school.

Whilst being based at the Culcheth campus, the SCITT trainees will be under the umbrella of The Alliance for Learning and we will work with the team at Culcheth to oversee their progress. They will also attend professional study days at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls. Recruitment is now underway, and the campus has received interest from prospective candidates.

Future Teaching Scholars

The Future Teaching Scholars (FTS) have committed to a six-year programme and are recruited as high achieving A-level students within their chosen STEM field. The FTS have already undertaken three years of the programme alongside their undergraduate degree. The first intake recruited to this programme are now employed in settings as unqualified teachers and they are currently on their Initial Teacher Training (ITT) year. The Alliance for Learning has four FTS training with us. They have settled in fantastically and are making great progress.

NQTs

For this academic year we have 61 NQTs registered with us as an Appropriate Body.

The theme for the first of our two NQT Conferences was supporting behaviour management and we



were pleased to welcome the brilliant behavior trainer Jason Bangbala in November. Our NQTs found the session enjoyable and informative and took away plenty of ideas and helpful strategies to their classrooms.

Early Years Conference
14th January 2020



Alliance for Learning
Train, Teach, Transform



Alliance for Learning presents...

"Every child deserves the best start -
improving outcomes in early years"

Join us for an exciting and informative day
with national and local Early Years experts.

Date: 14th January 2020

Time: 9.00am – 3.00pm

Venue: Altrincham Grammar School for Girls

The Cost

Early Bird Rates before 30th November - £60
£75 after that date. (£20% discount for Alliance
for Learning Partners)

Early Years (EYFS)

There is a healthy appetite for this programme as 23 trainees joined the Alliance for Learning for 2019-20. This is a great reflection of the dedication and expertise of our team and we are pleased that this employment-based route will continue to be funded by the DfE for the next round of recruitment. We have an Early Years Conference this month and we will be focusing on curriculum, early maths, healthy movers, national Ofsted updates, physical development and more. If you'd like to attend, please complete the online booking form. For other enquiries email: Christine Sorensen csorensen@aggs.bfet.uk

NW1 MATHS HUB REPORT 19/20



Maths Hub Lead, Simon Mazumder was made a Fellow of the Institution of Mathematics and Applications. He has had his term extended on the Schools and Further Education Advisory Committee and has been invited again to give a scholarship lecture at Aston University in June. Simon continues his work with the Opportunity Areas, Rochdale and Oldham and his work with the Local Leaders in Maths Education project in Oldham. We're pleased that secondary schools in Oldham had a significant rise in their progress 8 results, demonstrating the successful impact of this project. Simon is currently working with The University of Manchester's Professor Julian Williams to develop a long-term project looking at school improvement strategies.

We are happy to report that there are now 84 primary schools and 36 secondary schools engaged in the Teaching for Mastery schools and colleagues project.

The team recently welcomed the internationally renowned professor Ban Har Yeap at AGGS who hosted a series of CPD workshops on Singapore Textbook Techniques and conducted a lesson study at one of our strategic partners, St Mary's C of E Primary School.

NW1 also hosted the famous Japanese professor Akihiko Takahashi, and a Lesson study cycle. We are working with

the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers to establish an exchange programme and will also be hosting our annual Chinese exchange visit with five colleagues coming from Shanghai, two primary and three secondary teachers. There will be a series of showcases where colleagues will be able to come and watch these colleagues teach exemplar lessons.



Other news

Poetry Competition

The winners for our annual Christmas poetry competition on this year's theme of friendship:

- 1st prize £25 book voucher – Anika (Year 7) with 'Friendship' Oasis Academy, Oldham
- 2nd prize £15 book voucher – Erin (Year 5) with 'Friendships' Bedford Hall, Methodist primary school, Leigh
- 3rd prize £10 book voucher – Jessica (Year 7) with 'One of Us' Birchwood Community High School

We received more than 300 entries and it was judged by Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, alongside Simone Spray, Chief Executive of Mental Health Charity, 42nd Street; Simon Blake OBE, Chief Executive of Mental Health First Aid England; Professor Dame Alison Peacock, Chief Executive of The Chartered



College of Teaching and Diane Modahl MBE, Co-founder of the Diane Modahl Sports Foundation.

The entries were outstanding, and we are delighted that the competition inspired many young people to help others.



Coming Soon - PSHE Hub Network Relaunch

The government has published the first new guidance on relationships and sex education for 19 years! The health and 'relationships and sex' aspects of PSHE education will be compulsory in all schools from 2020. This is exciting as there is a huge potential for more consistency of PSHE standards across all schools, building on the fantastic work that Secondary schools across the North West have been doing whilst ensuring that we are working closely with our colleagues in the Primary sector.

Our aim as a PSHE Hub network is to signpost useful resources, share good practice and unite primary and secondary schools, navigating the changes together.

To confirm your place email:

rcresswell@bfet.aggs.uk