



COLLABORATION WORKS



Celebrating a successful 10 years before we move onto the next chapter

WELCOME TO THE LAST ALLIANCE FOR LEARNING NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR...



It is a time of immense change in teacher development and this newsletter marks the end of the Alliance for Learning Teaching School BUT the Alliance for Learning Network and our offer will still continue, we very much see this as another opportunity to strengthen our offer and to keep doing what we do well.

We know how much you value AFL and we are committed to not

only listening to your feedback but also acting on it... as you will see in our **'You Said, We Did'** section.

Schools in Manchester, Stockport, Trafford and Salford will continue to work with us through our DfE-funded Teaching School Hubs as well as any MATS working with our Hubs across different boroughs and those one or two schools that we have pre-existing partnerships with. Regardless of

where your school is the Alliance for Learning CPD offer and School-to-School Support offer stays here for you!

Thank you all for your support over the last decade, we are incredibly proud of the impact we have had and the relationships we have built up with you, our network of schools and we hope you enjoy a relaxing summer.

Lisa Fathers and the AFL Team

WHAT A DECADE



So, as we celebrate 10 years of being here for you we thought it would be a nice for your to hear from someone who worked at the Alliance for Learning in its infancy...

Sarah White (formerly Sarah Boyce and Head of Teaching School) who is now at Sheffield High School for Girls

"I loved being part of the Teaching School, starting off delivering training with Jenny Ogunmyiwa in the staff kitchen area (!) and latterly my role as Head of Teaching School 2013-15, and I have very fond memories of working with some exceptional colleagues. It was brilliant to be able to build upon the already very strong foundations which my predecessor, Gail Wickstead, had established and move the partnership forward in many ways. This included the fantastic support and expertise provided by the University of Manchester, our partnership with the Prince's Teaching Institute and our strong SLE team. We were especially proud of the many achievements, notably securing SCITT status, successfully bidding for the Researchers in Schools, becoming a Maths Hub and expanding our repertoire of professional development opportunities. All of these initiatives allowed us to work towards our core aims of transforming the lives of students across the partnership. None of this could have happened without the input from our partner schools who were invested from the start.

"Since leaving, I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the Teaching School completely flourish and thrive under Lisa's leadership and securing two prestigious Teaching School Hubs is such a fantastic accolade. I wish everyone involved in the partnership the very best as they continue to move forwards."

All about us!

The Alliance for Learning Teaching School leaves a legacy as we move into the new exciting chapter of Bright Futures Teaching School Hubs



From our beginnings in 2011

We have delivered CPD to over **19,000** teachers across **71** courses

We have successfully supported over **820** schools with SLE support and School 2 School Support commissions

We have been recognised as the 'go to place' by Roger Pope

Our SCITT has been judged as **GOOD** by Ofsted after only **2** years in existence

Our MHFA facilitators have become **National Trainers**

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

In the last 10 years...

Our TSA has grown to work with **1000** schools

Our SLE team has grown from **20** to **180** SLEs
100% of all SLE deployments are rated as green/outstanding

Over **4700** leaders and teachers have completed our MHFA training - now over **40,000** children in the NW are in schools with staff who can spot signs and symptoms of mental health difficulties

125 schools involved in GM Mentally Healthy Schools
70% of teachers gained employment in our own alliance schools

New Virtual CPD delivery

Launched our **RSHE Hub** working with **500** schools on RSHE
We are delivery partners with **Ambition Institute** for the Early Career Teacher roll out

Over **50%** of the leaders on our leadership courses have gone onto secure leadership promotion - **100%** of staff on our NPQ leadership courses secured the national qualification





SPECIALIST LEADERS IN EDUCATION

We place huge importance on the role of NLEs, LLEs and SLEs, which should never be underestimated: they play a vital role and are well respected, as well as being crucial to school improvement and teacher development. Here's some facts about our SLEs...

- We have successfully supported 820 schools with SLE support
- Our SLE team has grown from 20 to 190
- 100% of all AFL SLE deployments are rated as green/outstanding

A special thank you to Sonia Schofield who has been an amazing SLE, always going the extra mile. She will be missed by all of us as she embarks on her new promotion with Manchester Local Authority Education team.



Also a special thank you to Michelle O'Neil for her strong PSHE SLE work this year on our RSHE Secondary Hub. We have just launched our Primary RSHE Hub, if you don't know about it, the details are here <http://allianceforlearning.co.uk/our-hubs/rshe-hub/rshe-hub-primary>



Alliance for Learning

RSHE Hub



YOU SAID, WE DID

We listen and act on your feedback and this is something we like to shout about...

COVID-19 2020-2021

What have we done in response to the pandemic? We have listened to you and put a support package in place to ensure both staff and students are not only prepared but feel comfortable with the transitions we experience, including:

- Providing useful resources for home and school
 - Introducing a Wellbeing newsletter to ensure we could continue to work collaboratively, strengthen our sense of community and stay connected to support one another
 - Creating a Post Covid-19 School Recovery CPD Programme and the Covid 19 – Your essential guide to supporting student’s mental health course
 - Providing PHSE (RHSE) curriculum and lessons for the Oak National Academy – the nationwide online learning platform set up during the pandemic
- “The skilful way the Alliance for Learning Team have navigated this complex and highly sensitive subject has been outstanding.”

Oak National





"These CPD sessions have been so useful for our school and other colleagues in Trafford, no other CPD like this has been available."

Cathy Graham Headteacher - Wellfield Infants

RACE, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Stand out moments over the last 5 years

You said you needed more help with this area, and we agreed....

We are deeply committed to increasing awareness of the issues around race, diversity and inclusion in education and beyond, and we feel we are making progress. Here, are some stand out moments from our journey so far:

2017 - We committed to further raise the profile of under-represented groups in Education and to champion Inclusion. Partnerships were created with Stonewall, with Women Ed and a suite of CPD was delivered linked to LGBTQ.

2018 - Successful in our bid with the DfE to become a 'Women in Leadership Hub', launched with a range of conferences, CPD, Networking events and Coaching. Numbers of female SLEs doubled and attendance at events was high. Women reported increased confidence and 17 of the women involved achieved promotion.

2019 - We forged a partnership with Leeds Beckett CRED (Centre for Race & Decoloniality), Lisa Fathers was appointed as a Professional Associate of CRED and began supporting with CPD, advice and advocacy. A formal partnership was cemented with ACT Citizenship Hub, and we became a delivery partner.

2020 - The RSHE Hub was launched with a focus on embracing diversity, social justice, human rights and is linked to our Citizenship work. The Black Lives Matter movement and the death of

George Floyd spurred on this work. We responded swiftly, issuing a statement on our website and launching the Race & Diversity Hub to include a resource base, CPD and open dialogue panel discussions. We collaborated with CRED to raise the profile of the issues and contributed to the development of the Anti-Racist School Award which is now being piloted at one of our schools.

2021 - We held a George Floyd Anniversary Event where schools and children were invited to share, reflect, learn and heal.

We have a strong CPD offer for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion which includes:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programme – 8 sessions over 9 months
- Race, Diversity and Inclusion Training and Planning – 1 day
- Let's Talk About Race – 2-hour online training session

Please keep providing your feedback and ideas and we look forward to seeing how this will shape our offer in 2021/22.

If you would like to learn more or book onto one of our courses, please get in touch or visit our **Race & Diversity CPD webpage** (<http://allianceforlearning.co.uk/cpd/race-diversity/>).

YOU SAID, WE DID...



"Absolutely amazing course. The trainer was so engaging and personable. Feel like I learnt a lot and can transfer into daily practice. Thank you!"



Here are some other projects we have been proud to lead and support:

GREATER MANCHESTER MENTALLY HEALTHY SCHOOLS 2019-2021

The GM Mentally Healthy Schools & Colleges programme was part of a major £134m action plan announced in 2017 to help to transform mental health in Greater Manchester for children and adults. The project explored new ways of preventing mental health issues in young people through school-based interventions via a collaboration between: AFL, the Youth Sport Trust, 42nd Street, Place2Be and local mental health services.

Highlights of the programme, so far, include:

- Over 4,700 leaders and teachers have completed our mental health first aid training (MHFA)
- More than 125 schools are now involved in the programme
- Over 40,000 children in the NW are in schools where staff can spot signs of mental health difficulties
- Our MHFA facilitators have become national trainers

"I had the opportunity to be part of the SLE team in a DFE project in Blackpool. Gaining experience in a coastal town and supporting in different types of schools was so useful to me and I always took something back to my own school. Being part of a borough wide project was great experience too."

**Jonathon Williams -
Sale High School**

BLACKPOOL DFE FUNDED ENGLISH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2018

What was it? A rapid intervention project funded for two years. AFL was commissioned to co-ordinate the project. There were eight secondary schools involved, including the PRU (Pupil Referral unit).

What did the project achieve?

- An English Review Team was established
- The English HOD network became stronger and embedded as a network
- There was significant uptake and engagement with SLEs
- Further investment in CPD for staff who felt better supported
- Improved collaboration and community within schools (all schools moved to AQA)
- Staff created new shared resources to improve standards of teaching and learning through aspects such as modelling and providing high quality curricular resources
- The project ensured no school was left behind
- Results started to rise



“It was brilliant to have the opportunity to contribute to a national platform to provide the country with high quality PSHE lessons. Being part of the Oak National team was challenging but I learned a lot.”

**Ian Nicholson -
Stretford Grammar**

Our Curriculum Partnership with Oak National Academy

We are thrilled to have been chosen to provide the Key Stage 4 PSHE (RSHE) curriculum and lessons for the [Oak National Academy](https://www.thenational.academy/) (<https://www.thenational.academy/>).

This project is fantastic! Overseen by Lisa Fathers, our Director of Development, Partnerships and Teaching School Hubs but managed extremely well by Michelle O’Neil one of our fantastic SLE Team and Leader of Humanities and SMSC at Wellacre Academy, and a number of other SLEs from Alliance member schools – they have provided and will continue to provide a virtual PSHE department for the nationwide online learning platform, delivering the overall PSHE curriculum, schemes of work, resources and lesson delivery around this important area of education.

We are so proud to be part of this national initiative which allows students to keep on learning in the face of the ongoing Covid19 crisis. Self-isolating students need to access the full range of curriculum content including PSHE, and this content is even more important in challenging times for health and wellbeing.

Oak National Academy is an online classroom and resource hub created by teachers, for teachers. It provides nearly 10,000 high-quality video lessons and resources, with content for the full academic year across primary, secondary and specialist schools.

It was created in April 2020 as a national response to the pandemic, with teachers and education experts creating online lessons. In its first term, 4.7million users accessed 20 million lessons. It is staying open for all of 2020/21 to support contingency planning, remote and in-school teaching and we are delighted that the expertise of Bright Futures and our wider networks are being used in this vital and valuable resource.

SO... WHAT'S NEW FOR 2021/22?

Here is a taster of a couple of new courses we have for the next academic year:
To book on a course or find out more, please get in touch.



Eating Disorders CPD

Thursday 11th November 2021

1:30 - 4:30pm, £60 per person, online via Zoom

We are pleased to be working with Hope Virgo to provide an online CPD session around Eating Disorders. Hope's inspirational lived experience and delivery will cover:

- What an eating disorder is
- Current state of play re: eating disorders
- Details of her personal experience to bring attendees into the mindset of someone who has had an eating disorder
- How to have a conversation with someone who has an eating disorder
- How to spot the signs
- Practically, what we can do to make sure the right messaging is out there, that the right people are getting support and how to prevent more people developing an eating disorder.

Trauma Informed Support (previously called "Advanced Mental Health and Early Trauma")

Date option 1: Thursday 18th November 2021

- online via Zoom, cost is £95 per person

Date option 2: Thursday 5th May 2022 -

in person at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, cost is £190 per person

This one-day course (9am-4pm) is delivered by an external trainer, the fantastic Lisa Wisher, who is a qualified Mental Health First Aid England (MHFA) Instructor, Social Worker, Psychotherapist (in Advanced Training) and adopter.

The content has been rethought to focus on what is at the heart of her work; trauma, and how to support young people who have experienced this. It looks closely at why some children behave the way they do and how we can help them, and this training is particularly beneficial for staff working with adopted, looked after and vulnerable children.

The core aims of the programme are to:

- Explain how trauma and abuse impacts on a child's mental health
- Explore how events in childhood affect lifelong mental health
- Explain how children who have experienced trauma and abuse may behave in school



Wider CPD - Early Years

- EYFS Leadership Programme - Preparation for Ofsted
 - Session 1 - 13th October (9.30am-3pm)
 - Session 2 - 1st December (9.30am -3pm)
- EYFS Leads Network Sessions - Implementing the new EYFS Frameworks successfully
 - Session 1 - 22nd September (9.15am - 12.15pm)
 - Sessions 2 and 3 - TBC (Spring and Summer Term)

Visit our Teaching School Hub sites for more information on Early Career Framework and NPQs -

<https://www.tshtraffordandsalford.bfet.uk/>

and

<https://www.tshmanchesterandstockport.bfet.uk/>