



National College for Teaching & Leadership

Teaching schools newsletter

Welcome to the January teaching schools newsletter.

Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed a restful break. The new year promises to be exciting with more teaching schools being designated and the continued development of the programme.

As you will know from John Stephens' last newsletter, I have now taken over responsibility for Teaching Schools and School Improvement more generally. I'm delighted to be coming back to work relating to schools/teaching having spent earlier parts of my career working for the then Teacher Training Agency and later working on school workforce issues within the Department for Education.

Congratulations to all of those who were included in the New Year's Honours for services to education. I'm delighted that amongst them are a number of teaching school leaders.

The coming year is going to see new interesting opportunities and no doubt some challenges in terms of opportunities, we expect to see the roll-out of our new £140m Strategic School Improvement Fund which will provide an additional focus on (and more funding for) many teaching schools. More details will follow in due course.

I am very much looking forward to meeting with many of you and working together in the year ahead.

Gillian Hillier

Deputy Director - Teaching Schools and School Improvement

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Teaching Schools Council

A note from the chair of the Teaching Schools Council, Andrew Warren

The strapline for our teaching school is "**Releasing Potential**". It is at the heart of all we do, and how we try to do it. It also happens to be one of my New Year's resolutions. I never tire of hearing stories of how teachers and school leaders have helped staff and pupils alike to achieve the almost impossible, and certainly the unlikely. That is why we do what we do. That is one of the reasons we became teaching schools.

This year promises to be no less exciting as teaching schools work with the Department for Education, regional schools commissioners (RSCs), local authorities, dioceses the list is long, and parents and children to ensure that every child, no matter from what background, goes to a good or better school.

I wish you and your teaching school alliances a very Happy New Year oh, and if you have a spare moment, why not take a look at the YouTube "People are awesome 2015 - Best Videos of the Year" and see ways in which other people have definitely taken this one seriously though don't try it at home!

Andrew Warren

Chair of the Teaching Schools Council

Key messages

New funding for school improvement

You may have seen the recent announcement by the Secretary of State of 2 new sources of funding to support school improvement:

- from September 2017, a **£50 million a year fund for local authorities** to continue to monitor and broker school improvement support for weaker maintained schools in their area
- a new **£140 million 'Strategic School Improvement Fund'** for academies and maintained schools in need of support

We expect that teaching schools will play a key role in the use of the funds and more details will be available soon.

Local leader of education (LLE) update and pilot resources

In the December teaching schools newsletter, the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) confirmed changes to the LLE programme - the programme being devolved to teaching schools following a successful pilot. We have worked with the Teaching Schools Council to make a number of the LLE pilot resources available to all teaching schools via the Teaching Schools Council website. These resources are guidance documents only and can be used and adapted as necessary by teaching schools who are able to recruit flexibly throughout the year.

Note: Teaching schools will not be required to confirm LLE designations to NCTL in the future (as they do currently with specialist leaders of education (SLEs)) - LLE data to be held and maintained locally by teaching schools.

We will be communicating these changes to existing LLEs and are scheduled to remove the LLE data from the school-to-school-support directory in February.

If you have any questions about the resources or the LLE programme please email lle.enquiries@education.gov.uk.

Revised Teaching Schools handbook

A revised version of the Teaching Schools handbook was shared at the induction for newly designated teaching schools in October. If there is any information not included that would be helpful in supporting your alliance then please let us know at teaching.schools@education.gov.uk and it will be considered for future updates.

Funding opportunities

Building system leadership capacity grants

In addition to the funding, new **Building Capacity Grants of up to £25,000 each** will be available for established teaching school alliances to develop a tailored package of support for high-potential schools in target areas, supporting them to apply for teaching school designation in the next 12-18 months.

If you are interested in applying for this funding, please email teachingschools.enquiries@education.gov.uk before **16 January 2017**.

Please include brief details (250 words) of how your support will equip high-potential school(s) with the right skills to lead a new teaching school alliance within the timeframe. NCTL will work with applicants to identify schools that have potential to fulfil system leader roles in target areas. If you have already identified a school to support, please indicate this.

If you have any queries, please contact teachingschools.enquiries@education.gov.uk.

SLE opportunities

Partnership with Spanish Ministry of Education

We are delighted to be working with the Spanish Ministry of Education to join their Visiting Teachers programme. It provides opportunities for schools in England to recruit high quality teachers from Spain who can not only teach the language but also immerse pupils in cultural aspects.

Specialist leaders of education (SLEs) are being sought to support the sift process. SLEs wishing to apply will need to demonstrate their knowledge of teacher recruitment. Further information on the role and how to apply can be found in the attached briefing document.

All queries should be directed to: spanish.vtp@education.gov.uk.

SLEs and the new computing curriculum

Following the introduction of the new computing curriculum in 2014, the Department for Education are keen to understand how ICT SLEs have managed the transition. They would welcome information on:

- what continuing professional development (CPD) activities ICT SLEs have undertaken to be able to teach the new computing curriculum
- how confident ICT SLEs currently are in teaching the computing curriculum
- whether any of the ICT SLEs have signed up to be a 'Master Teacher' for the Network of Teaching Excellence as managed by Computing at School
- whether they feel they need further CPD and, if so, for what aspect of the curriculum

Please reply to fiona.bowditch@education.gov.uk by Wednesday 18 January 2017.

More news and information

Newly published findings from school-led leadership and diversity projects

NCTL funds school-led initiatives to support leadership development in schools:

- The Targeted Support Fund provides funding to schools to deliver leadership programmes in areas or types of school where it has traditionally been difficult to recruit.
- The Equality and Diversity Fund aims to increase the diversity of school leaders by supporting teachers covered by the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010.

In July 2016 participants were given a survey about how well they feel the programmes helped them develop confidence, leadership skills and achieve promotions.

Findings from the Targeted Support Fund are available and those from the Equality and Diversity fund.

Read more information about this year's Equality and Diversity projects.

Women Leading in Education: regional networks

In March 2016 we launched a coaching pledge to support women leading in education. Our ambition is to have 1,000 aspiring women leaders supported through coaching by March 2017. We're asking leaders to pledge to coach women teachers to help achieve our ambition. If you would like to become a coach please read the women leading in education: become a coach guidance.

If you are a female teacher and would like to develop your leadership skills through coaching, you can register for coaching free of charge.

We have also appointed 9 Regional Networks to promote women leading in education.

Have you seen?

- Roger Pope's latest blog 'Schools taking control of the narrative'.
- New, shareable animations that explain what NLEs and NLGs do to support schools.

Useful links

[GOV.UK](#)

 [Twitter](#)

Get in touch

Details of how to contact us are available on [GOV.UK](#).

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