



National College for Teaching & Leadership

Teaching schools newsletter

This month saw the occasion of my first Teaching Schools Council meeting. It was great to see the council in action and to meet many of your representatives for the first time as we worked through a very busy agenda.

One item we discussed was the Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund; a 3 year, £75 million fund announced by the Secretary of State in October last year. This fund aims to improve pupil outcomes in priority areas by increasing high-quality provision of teachers' CPD and leadership development in challenging areas and challenging schools. The Secretary of State announced the first application round on 16 February.

The first round will be seeking evidence-based proposals for teachers' CPD and/or leadership development, which would be ready to deliver at scale to participants from autumn term 2017 (and no later than January 2018). We anticipate that the bidding for this round will open in mid-March and close in mid-April 2017. Teaching schools and others interested in bidding can register their interest ahead of the round opening. Please [contact the team](#) if you have any questions about the fund.

I'd also like to draw attention to the DfE Leadership Coaching Pledge: Women Leading in Education, a programme that is helping more women to become leaders in education. Pledging to coach is a great opportunity to transform the leadership journey of women teachers by helping to increase confidence, unlock potential and build resilience. It is also an opportunity to further develop your own leadership skills. We need leaders in your networks to apply to become coaches and volunteer time, expertise and passion to make our ambition of 1,000 coaching pledges happen.

For more information contact the [programme team](#) or email one of the regional network leads.

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Gillian Hillier

Deputy Director - Teaching Schools and School Improvement

Teaching Schools Council

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

I was recently asked a direct question: "You're the new Chair of the Teaching Schools Council are you any good?" As I thought about the possible responses (not all of them polite), the questioner followed it up with a left hook, "And are you as good as the previous Chair?" The words of my mother that silence is golden came into my head and thankfully, I kept my thoughts to myself.

But it did get me thinking. Teaching schools have been given a huge privilege and responsibility for helping to drive the school-led agenda forward at a time when more is expected, with less resource. It is not easy, but a lot is expected of us and we should expect people to ask the question, "Are you any good?"

As we prepare to play a major role in the Strategic School Improvement Fund, and a whole host of other opportunities on the horizon, our working relationship with RSCs and the DfE, with Ofsted and local authorities, as well as with each other, will come under greater scrutiny. I have no problem with that. What keeps me awake at night however, is how the question will be answered in years to come as we look back at the role we have played. As we view the legacy of what these years of opportunity have offered, how will we be judged against our mission to ensure that 'Every child goes to a great school'?"

One of Stephen R. Covey's 7 habits of highly effective people is, "Begin with the end in mind". What I worry about is how I will answer the question in years to come, "Were we any good?"

Andrew Warren

Chair of the Teaching Schools Council

Key messages

Collaborative fund evaluation - contact information required

Thank you to you and your schools for your efforts to complete the 2015-16 collaborative fund evaluation. This is an important part of our financial assurance, demonstrating that public funds are being used appropriately and effectively.

Work has begun on the 2016-17 evaluation exercise and we will be contacting your school with further details of what is required after the Easter break. In the meantime, we are requesting your support to identify the correct contact in your school who will be dealing with the evaluation return.

Please complete this short form by Friday 14 April 2017 to enable us to update our records and ensure financial information is sent to the right person. Please contact grant.assurance@education.gov.uk with any queries.

National Leaders of Governance application round

To ensure continued capacity amongst National Leaders of Governance (NLG), we're launching a new designation round on 27 March, which will close on 28 April 2017. This round will be targeted at those parts of the country where we know there are currently not enough NLGs to support the schools that need support most. If you know of any chairs of governors who might be eligible and interested in becoming an NLG, please refer them to the NLG web pages on GOV.UK to express an interest. Please note that all applicants will be required to have written support from a commissioner of school-to-school support, such as a local authority, teaching school alliance, diocese or RSC who would be willing to deploy them if they were designated.

Update on the National Leaders of Governance advocate role

We are pleased to confirm that funding for the NLG advocate role will continue for at least one more year after the current role ends on 31 March 2017, and in the future will be managed through teaching school regions. We know the role has had a significant impact on raising the profile of NLGs, developing deployment opportunities, and, critically, building strategic relationships in the regions.

Teaching School Council regional leads will be responsible for recruiting and managing NLG advocates and will have the flexibility to structure the roles of NLG advocates to work most effectively within their regional and sub-regional networks. We believe that this will greatly increase opportunities for NLGs and other system leaders to collaborate on school improvement. As the teaching school role in school improvement evolves, we believe there will be an increase in deployment opportunities and the prioritisation and coordination of NLG deployments will improve. More information will be available in due course.

Other opportunities and information

Support for schools on assessment without levels

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) is exploring how it can further support schools as approaches to in-school assessment continue to be embedded and refined. The STA would value the views of teaching schools in the following areas:

- What are the key challenges remaining for schools in implementing effective approaches to in-school assessment?
- How can we build a shared understanding of what effective in-school assessment practice looks like?
- How can we improve schools' access to high-quality training or other support for in-school assessment?

Please give the STA your feedback by emailing emily.stewart@education.gov.uk.

Are you in need of a Spanish modern foreign language teacher?

Spain's Visiting Teachers Programme provides opportunities for schools in England to recruit high-quality teachers from Spain to not only teach the language but also immerse pupils in cultural aspects.

Visiting teachers from Spain will be available from September 2017 for one year initially, with the option to renew annually for up to a length of 3 years. The contract will be between the school and the visiting teacher and schools will be responsible for paying their salaries.

Schools looking to recruit teachers through this programme will need to register. Please visit Spain's Visiting Teachers Programme for further information.

New measures to help schools save - £1 billion a year on goods and services

The DfE has published a package of measures designed to improve how schools buy goods and services as part of its drive to help schools save money on non-staff costs.

The DfE talked to headteachers, school business managers and other experts to design the measures around the needs of schools and academies, and these will include supporting and extending buyers' networks and development of better 'National Deals' by spring 2017.

The DfE has also made support available online on buying, efficiency and financial planning. This includes new and updated guidance on buying and workforce planning, and professional development opportunities in financial management for school leaders.

Have you seen?

- How to write a successful grant application - If you're interested in applying for grant opportunities, these tips will help you strengthen your application.
- What is the role of the Teaching Schools Council? - We talk to Andrew Warren about the work of the TSC.
- Pupil premium funding - the benefits of an external review - A headteacher on his experience of a pupil premium review.

Useful links

[GOV.UK](#)



Get in touch

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

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