



National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

## Teaching schools newsletter

Welcome to the November teaching schools newsletter.

It was great to welcome all the new national leaders of education (NLEs) and teaching school leaders at our recent national induction events. We were particularly pleased to recruit so many new system leaders from areas of the country where the school-led system is less established. It's great that we're able to draw on the expertise of more experienced system leaders to help with the induction process.

On a personal note, I am leaving the Civil Service at the end of the year. I'm taking up the post of CEO with Bright Futures Educational Trust, a multi-academy trust in the north west. I love my current role. It's been a huge privilege to work with you and to see the amazing work that system leaders are doing up and down the country. I'm excited, however, to be returning to a leadership role that will enable me to have a more direct impact on the life chances of children, families and communities. Bright Futures has a teaching school as part of the MAT so I'll continue to engage with many of you in my new role. Thank you for your support, advice, challenge, patience and good humour over the last few years.

I'm delighted that the leadership of this work will be taken on by a highly experienced colleague, Gillian Hillier, who'll bring fresh perspectives and great talent and expertise. I'm working with Gillian over the next few weeks to make sure we have a proper handover.

This month we'll be asking you to complete a key information form for your alliance. This is an important exercise and the data we gather will have a role in shaping the future direction of the teaching schools programme. Practical details regarding the process are included below.

**John Wm Stephens**

Deputy Director - Teaching Schools and School Improvement

### In this month's newsletter

[Teaching Schools Council](#)

[Key messages](#)

[Funding opportunities](#)

[Other opportunities and information](#)

## Teaching Schools Council

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

Dear colleagues

It was a great privilege to take part in the recent induction days for new NLEs and teaching schools. As they grappled with some of the opportunities and challenges, and as they asked their questions, it was good to reflect that during the past five years, previous cohorts have trod an impressive path, making significant footprints to follow. In our desire to look and move forward it is sometimes easy to forget where we have come from. That said, there is still much more to do.

Following last month's ITT allocations, unsurprisingly, there has been a considerable amount of email traffic from teaching schools! Teaching Schools Council (TSC) members are well aware of the significant issues that many teaching schools face and have raised. Whilst I am not sure what can be done for 2017 to 2018, we're actively involved in discussions with ITT policy makers about the future direction of travel, and we will keep you informed as the discussions develop.

Best wishes

**Andrew Warren**

Chair of the Teaching Schools Council

## Key messages

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### Key Information Form - Go Live: 21 November

During November we'll be contacting all teaching schools to collect key information about your alliance, in particular about the organisations who are actively participating in the delivery of your alliance's activity and those who are benefiting from support. We've recently contacted your alliance to gather a nominated contact who'll complete the form on behalf of your alliance. Many thanks to those who have provided this via the Key Information Form Contact Survey.

The online portal will be available from **21 November until 9 December** and we ask for your support during this process. It's really important that we build an accurate baseline to measure the important work of teaching schools and we've been working with representatives on the TSC to ensure this activity is as simple as possible.

Register for a webinar that we are hosting on 22 November to answer any questions about the Key Information Form. Content will be made available afterwards for those that are not available to attend.

You can find out more about the focus of the Key Information Form in this short video. Any queries should be sent to [teaching.schools@education.gov.uk](mailto:teaching.schools@education.gov.uk).

### Improved approach to designating NLEs and teaching schools

Following the government's recent commitment to improving how teaching schools and NLEs are designated, we are pleased to announce that we have introduced a more sophisticated and balanced approach to designating system leaders - one which relies less heavily on Ofsted judgements and more on timely and accurate data, and the skills and track record of those applying.

New criteria for NLEs and teaching schools and the improved approach come into effect from **9 November 2016**, to coincide with the opening of the next application rounds which are open until **11 December**. Together these improvements will help to ensure that more of the most effective school leaders and schools are able to provide high quality support, especially in areas of the country where this support is most needed.

In summary, to be eligible, all system leaders will need to demonstrate that:

- They have a track record of effectively supporting other schools
- Their current schools are judged to be at least good and pupil performance and progress is high, compared to national averages, over a sustained period
- Their application is supported by a professional responsible for commissioning high quality support
- Those applying for NLE designation will need to demonstrate a track record of effective school improvement - we are particularly interested in leaders with experience of turning around failing schools improving outcomes for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, and/or with low prior attainment
- Teaching schools will be required to demonstrate their ability to deliver high quality school-led initial teacher training (ITT), professional development for teachers and leaders and school to school support

If you know somebody who may be interested in applying, we'd encourage you to forward this information to them. If you have any questions about these changes, please get in touch by emailing [nle.enquiries@education.gov.uk](mailto:nle.enquiries@education.gov.uk).

#### **Action needed: Annex G Certificate of Expenditure request**

If your school received grant funding of £40,000 or more in the 2015 to 2016 financial year, you should have received an email from us requesting completion of the Annex G Certificate of Expenditure. The deadline for completing and returning this certificate is **16 December 2016**. Please ensure that someone in the school is dealing with it. If you have any queries, please email [AnnexG.Funding@education.gov.uk](mailto:AnnexG.Funding@education.gov.uk).

## **Funding opportunities**

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#### **Funding still available: University Technical College (UTC) Support Grant**

With many thanks to the teaching schools already supporting university technical colleges, we're still looking to match the remaining unsupported UTCs to suitable teaching schools. The list of schools still to be matched is included in the guidance document.

The UTC Support Grant provides funding for teaching schools to support school improvement by working with UTCs and studio schools that have not been judged good or better.

£20,000 per annum is available for up to 2 years of intensive educational support, including for governance. £5,000 is also available for teaching schools with proven financial expertise to support eligible schools with their financial capability.

Teaching schools looking to apply should complete this application form. The deadline for applications is **9 December**.

## Other opportunities and information

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### Induction of cohort 9 teaching schools

On 12 and 13 October, 60 headteachers and managers from 32 newly designated teaching schools attended an induction event in Nottingham. The induction included both a national and regional perspective and was delivered predominantly by school leaders and Teaching School Council representatives. You can watch video clips of a selection of leaders talking about their alliance and plans for the future.



NCTL Chair, Roger Pope spoke at the induction and recorded a short video explaining the 3 key priorities for teaching schools. We've shared it on Twitter, where it's been very popular - please feel free to share it on your own social media or embed it on your website.

### Developing your career in a teaching school - can you help?

Our communications team are looking for teachers who were newly qualified teachers in a teaching school between 2010 and 2012. They'd like to talk to them about how working in a teaching school has helped them to develop their career.

If you know anyone who would like to take part, please email [leanne.aslin@education.gov.uk](mailto:leanne.aslin@education.gov.uk).

### Feedback requested: how are schools helping to reduce teacher workload?

Earlier this year, three independent review group reports were published around marking, planning and data management and we encourage you to review school policies and practices in order to remove unnecessary workload for teachers in light of these. The reports give clear principles and recommendations which can help to reduce teacher workload and [we would like to hear from you](#) about how you are addressing these.

### Effective Primary Teaching Practice 2016

The TSC's Effective Primary Teaching Practice report was published on 2 November. The report provides thought-provoking, practical advice for teachers and schools.

Led by ex-primary headteacher Dame Reena Keeble, supported by a group of headteachers, teachers and experts, the report is the culmination of eight months' work reviewing the evidence, visiting schools and talking to teachers and experts.

The report was published on the TSC website alongside summary posters, evaluation tools and PowerPoint slides to support discussion in schools.

You can find out more about the group members, the review process, and the tools for teachers and leaders on the TSC's website.

### **Talented Leaders programme enters headteacher matching phase**

Our Talented Leaders programme is now in its matching phase and is inviting informal expressions of interest from eligible schools that are or will soon be recruiting a headteacher. If you know of a school that is finding it difficult to recruit a great leader then please email [nelly.elessa@future-leaders.org.uk](mailto:nelly.elessa@future-leaders.org.uk).

Headteachers will be placed in schools by March 2017 and will receive a package of tailored support and training. They commit to leading a school for at least 3 years. The school will benefit from a leadership sustainability fund, up to the value of £50,000, to strengthen succession planning within the school and develop a strategy to ensure long-term sustainable improvements.

The programme works in a number of priority areas around the country and is run by The Future Leaders Trust. Schools that meet the programme's eligibility criteria and have vacancies can engage with the programme.

Read about Nadia Paczuska's experience to see the difference a Talented Leader can make.

#### **New on the blog**

- 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 new Chair 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.

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#### **Useful links**

GOV.UK



#### **Get in touch**

Details of how to contact us are available on GOV.UK.

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