

# Teaching Schools Council South West

## Newsletter – January 2017

### Welcome to the January 2017 newsletter for Teaching Schools in the South West and a Happy New Year!

The Spring is always a particularly busy period for Teaching Schools as we are brokering support for schools identified during the summer and autumn, organising and delivering teacher and leadership development, continue to train new teachers in schools and participate in regional activity with colleagues in schools, Local Authorities, the RSC office and Diocese etc.

In the South West the TSC team has been working with Rebecca Clark, our Regional Schools Commissioner and her team to focus the available funding for **School to School Support** to the priority schools in the region and Simon and I have been supported by our new team of Regional Teaching School Link (RTSL) leaders and Coordinator. During the Spring our RTSL leaders will be representing Teaching Schools at the new **Sub Regional Improvement Boards** organised by the RSC office and chaired by members of the Head Teacher Board. This will be an important opportunity to identify, commission and deploy system leaders to support schools in a range of contexts and to learn from the great practice in the region.

I would like to draw attention to a few of the recent publications on the TSC website (<http://tscouncil.org.uk>) including some of the system leader materials arising from the LLE pilots (available at <http://tscouncil.org.uk/resources/lle/>), and the TSC's Effective Primary Teaching Practice report published at the very end of October 2016 (available at <http://tscouncil.org.uk/effective-primary-teaching-practice-report-2016/>).

Each of the sub regions will be piloting **Teaching School Peer Reviews** during the Spring and Summer so please do contact your local RTSL if you are interested in participating. Regional capacity building coaching projects to facilitate school to school support and leadership development are being funded through the **Targeted Support Fund** so please do keep in touch with RTSLs through the regular regional Teaching School meetings if you want to get involved!

Finally, last term I was fortunate to participate in two great events, the Plymouth Regional Education Conference in late September focused attention on the opportunities for collaboration and real impact in the Plymouth area, while the Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole based 'Piecing the Jigsaw Together' conference in late November was an opportunity to hear from the National and Regional Schools Commissioners about their priorities for the region, from the Chair of NCTL, Roger Pope and the current Ofsted priorities and 'myth busters' with Christine Raeside, SHMI. Please note there are a number of **school-led conferences** across the region in the upcoming months so please see the flyers below.

I hope you have a great start to the New Year!

Jenny Blunden

Teaching School Council Member



### Contacts

#### Teaching School Council SW Members

Jennifer Blunden [jenniferb@truro-penwith.ac.uk](mailto:jenniferb@truro-penwith.ac.uk)  
Simon Cowley [scowley@twhf.org.uk](mailto:scowley@twhf.org.uk)

#### RTSL Co-ordinator

Chris Mitten [kenwyn44@aol.com](mailto:kenwyn44@aol.com)

#### RTSLs

Somerset/Bristol/NW	Tony Bloxham	<a href="mailto:TBloxham@educ.somerset.gov.uk">TBloxham@educ.somerset.gov.uk</a>
Cornwall/Devon/SW	Dr Jim Rogers	<a href="mailto:jrogers@plpcic.co.uk">jrogers@plpcic.co.uk</a>
Wilts/Swindon/Glos	James Passmore	<a href="mailto:JPASSMORE@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk">JPASSMORE@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Dorset/Bournemouth/Poole	Vacancy	

#### Admin Assistant

Emma Williams [tsc-sw@truro-penwith.ac.uk](mailto:tsc-sw@truro-penwith.ac.uk)



## **Teaching Schools Leading the way to improve Key Stage 2 Maths Outcomes in Somerset.**

There are exciting times ahead for Teaching Schools and the Alliances that they represent, with significant capacity building on-going, to ensure there is the resource and expertise available to support a school led self-improving system. Within Somerset, the Local Authority have recognised this and invited Teaching Schools to be part of a monthly school improvement conversation, which has a focus on individual schools but also recognises issues across them.

In January, a programme designed by three teaching schools, supported by the Local Authority, two Maths Hubs and the Somerset Primary Headteacher's Association will roll out. The programme funded by the Local Authority will seek to improve outcomes in Maths across the County through four main strands of work.

### **Strand 1: Maths Subject Leader Briefings and Leadership Training**

Half termly briefings for maths leaders and potential maths leaders delivered by Boolean Maths Hub leaders from the Bristol Primary Maths Hub and the Jurassic Coast Maths Hub. These meetings will also have some leadership training input for both existing and future leaders of Maths.

### **Strand 2: IMPACT (Improved Maths Progress and Classroom Teaching)**

Training for teachers from accredited SLEs to improve their practice in the classroom. This programme and its associated training sessions will be hosted in the Somerset Primary Teaching Schools (Redstart, Huish and Preston Primary Schools) and will be delivered by practitioners:

### **Strand 3: Maths Training for Year 6 Teachers**

Training with a specific focus on Year 6; being pragmatic, practical and focused on techniques and strategies to accelerate progress and boost attainment. This training will be delivered by an experienced SLE from Bristol Primary Teaching School Alliance.

### **Strand 4: Bespoke SLE Support**

Selected schools are eligible for bespoke in school SLE support, which will be aligned to their self-evaluation and school improvement plans.

This strategy recognises the limited capacity we have as individual teaching school alliances seeking to bring together resource and expertise across a range of partners to enable the capacity for a county wide strategy to improve Maths. This "for schools by schools" approach has been valued by schools with over 100 teachers and leaders involved in the training which starts in January.

Tony Bloxham

Regional Teaching School Link

Bristol, Bath, North East Somerset,  
Somerset and South Gloucestershire

## NEWS FROM DEVON, CORNWALL, PLYMOUTH AND TORBAY

It has been an interesting few months for us all in a rapidly changing landscape of academisation and school improvement. The effort made to co-ordinate the STSS round 4 appears to have been worth it with the SW region meeting its grant limit. We should hear in the new year who has been successful when ministers sign this off.

I enjoyed meeting colleagues at our regional Teaching School meeting in Oakhampton in November, and we have another meeting planned for March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 at the same location. What struck me was a willingness to collaborate and we now have several cross-TSA projects lining up. I am more than happy assisting in this if you have an offer you wish to make beyond your TSA. Equally, I am investing time getting out and meeting you and learning about your Teaching Schools, please let me know if you would like a visit in the new year.

We have been developing new LLE protocol and training material to improve action-planning and ensure sustainable impact in schools. I am happy to share this, and will also let TSs in our sub-region know about the training dates. You will need to be thinking about how you evidence the impact of school improvement. This material will help, as will the TS Peer Review which is being piloted this year.

Linked with this is a real push for evidence-informed CPD. We have projects starting in Plymouth that are driven by the need of schools. This includes reading attainment, and will include oracy. Please let me know if you are interested, and what your needs are in your areas so that we can begin to coordinate support and training in these areas.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Dr J Rogers

Regional Teaching School Link  
Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay

Director of Plymouth Teaching School  
Alliance

## Update from Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire

The Teaching School Council's development of Regional Teaching School Links aims to facilitate a more joined up approach to system leadership across the South West. The region is co-ordinated by Chris Mitten, and I am responsible for one of the four sub-regions: Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire.

Gloucestershire has eight Teaching Schools, and Swindon and Wiltshire have six giving the sub-region a total of 14 established alliances. All the Teaching Schools meet regularly and invite representatives from the Local Authority and DfE in order to share best practice, discuss school improvement priorities, organise collaborative professional development opportunities, work together to deliver high quality Initial Teacher Training and share local intelligence to help improve outcomes for all schools in the region.

Thank you to all the Teaching School leads and Local Authorities who supported the co-ordination of information for the latest School to School Support round – the region put in some excellent bids, matching the criteria very well, and I am looking forward to hearing about the impact of projects over the next few months.

The Teaching School Council have successfully bid for funding to run a series of Targeted Leadership Programmes across the South West, which will provide funded training and inspirational leadership seminars for middle and emerging system leaders, as well as school to school support for schools with an area for development. There is currently a cohort being run in Swindon by the White Horse Federation, and Pickwick Learning TSA launches its cohort at the end of January. If you know of a school in your area that would benefit from targeted leadership support please let me know.

I have had the pleasure of visiting several teaching schools in the sub-region last term and I am looking forward to visiting the rest over the next four terms. If there is anything I can support you with or if you would like to find out more about the TSA opportunities across this sub-region please do let me know.

James Passmore  
Regional Teaching School Link  
Gloucestershire, Swindon, Wiltshire  
Deputy Head, Pickwick Learning Teaching School Alliance

## News from Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole

The highly successful TSC event at The Village took place on November 29<sup>th</sup>, with key notes from Sir David Carter, Sir Roger Pope, Rebecca Clarke and Christine Garside, SHMI was followed by a range of workshops. The Teaching Schools across the area continue to work together and beyond connecting with neighbouring Teaching Schools to establish a South Coast Central partnership. A website platform has been set up recently to enable smoother connectivity with all schools and key partners in the area; <http://www.southcoastcentraltsp.co.uk>

The group of Teaching Schools and partners are developing a structure discussed at the event at The Village which would see a strategic group brokering and quality assuring school to school support work, planning for ITT and leadership development opportunities that respond to locally identified need. An operational group is also being established to enable cohesion, which includes school business managers working together. Over the next month the strategic group meets on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, ahead of an operational meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> before an RSC led Sub Regional Improvement Forum meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Our Targeted Leadership Programme, aimed at 10 pairs of middle leaders and recruited by Clare Adams through Ringwood School, is set to launch on January 26<sup>th</sup> and will include middle leaders working in a different school, receiving coaching support and leadership input.

Ongoing discussions to further develop an effective school led system are set to take place in the coming months and whilst Phil Minns our sub regional TSC link has recently moved on from the role, I would welcome further discussion on Teaching School related matters.

Chris Mitten  
TSC SW Co-ordinator



## Women Leading in Education – South West Network

### Dartmoor Teaching School Alliance to lead development of SW Networks

We are delighted that the NCTL has awarded Dartmoor TSA a three-year grant to lead the development of Women Leading in Education networks across the South West region. Promoting equality and supporting excellence in leadership are central to our values and vision as a TSA. This exciting new role will enable us to support existing gender equality network activities as well as bring new training and leadership development opportunities.

Our project aims are to:

1. Tackle unconscious bias and stereotyping of women at work, especially around promotion
2. Increase opportunities for career breaks, return to work and family friendly working patterns
3. Increase career management support for women
4. Develop confidence and resilience so that women feel able to drive their career forward

To achieve this we are looking to create 24 networks around the region that are a lead by Women into Leadership Champions - outstanding leaders with a high level of commitment to equality, especially around gender. We are working in Partnership with The Glass Lift ([www.theglasslift.co.uk](http://www.theglasslift.co.uk)), who aim to apply the science of Psychology to help clients to increase the number of women and other minority groups in leadership and have experience in gender leadership equality across the public and private sector.

To find out more about our aims, vision and planned outcomes please visit us online ([www.womenleadingineducation-sw.org.uk](http://www.womenleadingineducation-sw.org.uk)) or follow us on Twitter (WomenLeadEdSW).

### We are now recruiting Project Team members

**Project Manager:** We are looking to appoint an inspirational leader to take on the funded role of Project Manager for Women Leading in Education South West Network. The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate a willingness and ability to make a significant impact over time on gender leadership equality. The post would be suitable for a person currently in a leadership a person who has recently held leadership roles or has expertise in leadership equality.

**Women into Leadership Champions:** We are looking to appoint up to 12 Women into Leadership Champions from across the South West region. These are voluntary roles and suitable for people currently in leadership roles or those who have recently held leadership positions. Post holders are required to commit to a minimum of 6 days per year.

**Project Board Member:** We are looking to recruit a member of the Project Board. Ideally, the person would have expertise in the field of Leadership, Gender Equality and / or School Governance.

Deadlines for applications is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Full details of the above posts / roles are available through our Recruitment Pack which can be downloaded from [www.womenleadingineducation-sw.org.uk](http://www.womenleadingineducation-sw.org.uk)

If you would like to get in touch about any of the above please contact Martin Smith – Director of Dartmoor TSA – by email [msmith@dartmoortsa.org.uk](mailto:msmith@dartmoortsa.org.uk).

### Targeted Leadership Programme

We were successful in securing a target leadership grant that is enabling 40 middle leaders to experience school improvement placements in an identified school; offering the host school of each middle leader backfill funding to enable an identified middle leader to step up. This also includes access to some middle leader training. Whilst the first cohort have been organised we will be seeking to use sub-regional Teaching School meetings to plan how to best use the second year's funding that will allow a further 40 pairs (10 per each sub-region) to experience the programme. We anticipate this will be an agenda item on upcoming meetings in each patch.

Chris Mitten  
TSC SW Co-ordinator



# Taunton Teaching Alliance



## Inspiring Leadership

### Spring 2017

**Russell Education Trust Case Study**  
Presented by Karen Lynch - CEO  
**Wednesday 1 February**

### **Weathering the Financial Storm**

Presented by Susan Fielden,  
School Finance Specialist **Wednesday 1 March**



### **Mentally Healthy Schools**

Presented by Lorraine Petersen OBE  
**Tuesday 7 March**

### **Redstart Learning Partnership Case Study**

Presented by Suzanne Flack - CEO  
**Monday 13 March**



### **An Introduction to the Chartered College of Teaching**

Presented by Professor Dame Alison Peacock - CEO  
**Thursday 30 March**

### **Your Compass for Success in Action**

Presented by Floyd Woodrow MBE DCM  
& Bishop Henderson Primary **Thursday 20 April**



All of the free TTA Inspiring Leadership events take place at  
**Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, Taunton, TA2 8PD 4-6pm**  
with complimentary tea, coffee, cake and networking included  
Email [info@tauntonteachingalliance.co.uk](mailto:info@tauntonteachingalliance.co.uk) to book your place

With grateful thanks  
for sponsorship of the  
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**The Castle School**  
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# JURASSIC COAST TEACHING SCHOOLS' ALLIANCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2017

TAUNTON RACECOURSE, ORCHARD PORTMAN, SOMERSET, TA3 7BL



### DAVID DIDAU

In 2011, frustrated by the current state of education he began to blog. Since then he has expressed the constraints and irritations of ordinary teachers, detailed the successes and failures of his classroom and synthesised 15 years of teaching experienced through the lens of education research and cognitive psychology.

### MATT PARKER

Possibly the only person to hold the prestigious title of London Mathematical Society Popular Lecturer while simultaneously having a sold-out comedy show at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Matt is always keen to mix his two passions of mathematics and stand-up.



**MATT  
PARKER**  
**STANDUP  
+ MATHS**

The day will also include:

**BRADLEY SIMMONS**, Ofsted, **JENNIFER BLUNDEN**, CEO at Truro and Penwith Academy Trust and member of the National Teaching Schools Council and numerous **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** based on innovative teaching and learning in the region

£120 per delegate - non alliance members

£80 per delegate - alliance members

## BOOK HERE

### JURASSIC COAST TEACHING SCHOOLS' ALLIANCE

WWW.JCTSA.ORG.UK JCTSA@WOODROFFE.DORSET.SCH.UK @JURASSICCOASTTS







Wednesday, 8 March 16.30 - 18.30  
@ Uffculme School, EX15 3AG

This is an opportunity for us to raise awareness of the issues facing women in leadership.

We will have an opening and closing key note speech, with a series of short, dynamic and inspiring presentations on challenges and creative solutions.

Sign up to present, exhibit or be part of the audience.

**Join us to connect,  
collaborate, celebrate and be  
challenged.**



Limited tickets available. Register now. Search Eventbrite  
#WomenEd #LeadMeet for ~IWD17 - Devon