

Dear Colleagues

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Teaching School Council Strategy Lead to provide you with a comprehensive update on regional school improvement activity in recent months and make you aware of upcoming opportunities from a range of key partners:

1. Regional activity arising from the **Team South West** regional delivery plan and the **Regional Education Partnership Boards** this term.
2. The delivery and implementation of the **19-20 School Improvement Offer** in the SW
3. **System Leader Training** Entitlement Update
4. An overview of the TSC approach to the new **Teaching School Hubs** 'test and learn' pilot (see attached supporting document)
5. **EEF** new approach to regional working
6. **MAT CEO Network** update
7. Update from the **Regional Schools' Commissioner**
8. **Diocesan RE Excellence Hub**
9. **Governance** capacity update
10. **Regional Collaboration Portal** developments
11. **Maths SLE** Training Offer

1. **Team South West and Regional Education Partnership Boards**

As you are aware, the Team SW Regional Plan identifies four school improvement priorities in the South West which are SEND, Disadvantage, Maths and Governance and Leadership, and aims to align these priorities with key partners to bring greater coherence to the system, as well as making visible where system and school leaders can access support.

You can view the latest version of the regional delivery plan discussed at the recent Team SW meeting here: <https://www.cpdportal-sw.org/index.php/find-documents/document-categories/team-sw/resources> which provides an update on the most recent developments against our priority strands. We are currently working on shaping our leadership training entitlement for next year which will see a more targeted offer to leaders in the system at various levels, working with colleagues across the MAT leaders' network, the RSC, Local Authorities and Diocese to maximise reach and impact wherever we can. We are also now linked in to the regional Association of Directors of Children's Services which should ensure improved alignment with their strategic aims to ensure the very best outcomes for children in the South West.

Team South West membership has recently evolved to include representation from our local Research Schools, from four Local Authority Education Leads, as well as from the Education Endowment Fund in order to ensure that wherever possible our regional work is evidence informed. We are very excited about the possibilities of our partnership with the EEF and making the most of their expertise and resources to underpin our training offer for 19-20.

Regional Education Partnership Boards are now fully operational across all four sub-regions and convened earlier this month to continue our collaborative work around the four SW priorities.

As well as hearing from regional SSIF Project Leads, another important feature of our most recent meetings was the **Ofsted Thematic Analysis** of findings emerging from recent Ofsted inspections in the South West where schools have declined from previously Good/Outstanding judgements. We are grateful to our colleagues in Bristol LA for sharing their approach which in turn was developed by colleagues in the RSC Office to produce this very comprehensive regional report. We have attached this report to this letter for your reference and for sharing across your networks and within your schools and Trusts.

Whilst there are no great surprises in the report, it is worth reminding ourselves of the fundamental importance of strong Governance in securing school improvement as well as the ability for leaders to accurately assess the quality of teaching and learning. These two areas will be focal points for the Team South West led offer next year, to compliment the work already underway across your local areas.

You can find the **SSIF project presentations** on the portal here: <https://www.cpdportal-sw.org/index.php/find-documents/document-categories/april-may-rep-board-ssif-presentations>

More SSIF presentations will be uploaded later this term following further discussion at the June/July REP Boards. Following this, our plan is to work with colleagues at the DfE to publish case studies of the 22 SSIF projects by theme, on the regional collaboration portal so that best practice can be shared and built upon to ensure the sustainability of the region's most impactful projects.

2. Progress of the implementation of the 19-20 School Improvement Offer

As you are already aware, 187 schools in the South West were deemed eligible for either Tier 1 or Tier 2 support as part of the new school improvement offer for 19-20. Engagement levels from our schools has been higher than the national average, with 82% of those eligible choosing to take up the offer of support from NLEs.

As we have now passed the May 31st deployment completion deadline for Tier 2 schools, we would like to thank all of our NLEs who have worked with eligible schools and academies and have taken the time to carefully draft their Recommended Actions Forms to such a high standard. Meeting the funding criteria is a challenge, but one that has led to yet more fantastic partnership working between ourselves, school leaders, our NLEs and our Regional Teaching School Leads. Thank you also for your patience in tolerating the frequent communications coming from the TSC that we hope you find useful to guide you through the process!

Please note that **Tier 2 RAFs** should be submitted no later than **June 14th**. For **Tier 1** we are working towards a **RAF submission deadline of July 1st** to allow for a quality assurance process in the final few weeks of summer term.

NLE/NSS Bursary - important update to terms and conditions

NLEs should have recently received a letter from the DfE regarding an update to the terms and conditions for the NSS bursary. You will find a copy of this letter attached and a FAQ document which outlines the terms and conditions of the 19-20 grant that take effect immediately. Please read this carefully as it also has implications for the period April 19 - Sept 19 where an NLE is supporting a school that is outside of the eligible school criteria for the purposes of the offer.

For NLEs that are supporting eligible schools as part of the 19-20 TSC/DfE offer, this is a gentle reminder that If you require additional bursary for multiple deployments or travel expenses, **you should already have notified TSC** using the link below, by **Friday 24th May**. We have assumed that non

respondents did not require payments.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PGUjJaNVEGfmVWs3Yxo_QBPcp5cCORFHR36FQBfmrFM/edit

If you have not yet submitted details of additional bursary or travel expenses via the survey but wish to notify us, please contact Kelly Broome: admin.sw@tscouncil.org.uk who will update the DfE accordingly.

We would also like to ask any NLEs who would be happy to help support a new/aspiring LLE as they develop their expertise in providing school to school support, if they would be willing to nominate themselves to be shadowed during their StSS deployments. If you would like offer a colleague this opportunity please notify Teresa Lawrence (Regional Teaching School Lead, Sub-region D) on: tlawrance.sw@tscouncil.org.uk

School Improvement offer for 19-20

In his speech to the NAHT conference on 3 May, the Secretary of State confirmed that from September 2019, the DfE would no longer use the floor and coasting measures, and that Ofsted Requires Improvement would be the sole trigger for an offer of support from the Department. He also confirmed that the Department would continue to make a proactive, optional offer of support to schools; and that it would be more intensive for schools with consecutive Requires Improvement judgements. We will share further communications across the sector when details of next year's offer have been confirmed.

3. System Leader Training Entitlement

Over 320 system leaders in the South West have now taken advantage of our free system leader training entitlement in the Spring and Summer Terms which has included: Pupil Premium Review Training; Coaching Training; External Review of Governance training; a combined EEF/TSC School's Guide to Implementation, as well as the Greenshaw Leadership Case-Study.

We are also pleased to announce that SEND Review Training will be offered across two sub-regions on 27th June (subregion A) and 11th July (subregion A). Venues and booking arrangements are to be confirmed. SEND SLEs will be invited to take up the initial places, followed by SENCOs. Please keep an eye on the portal for further information about this offer.

4. Announcement of the TSC Teaching School Hubs 'test and learn' pilot

The TSC has worked closely with the DfE over the last few months helping to review the current structure of system leadership and informing the development of the proposed Teaching School Hubs model, which was finally announced last week.

For those Teaching Schools located in the test and learn areas, which in the South West are Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, who are interested in finding out more, you should **read the attached letter from Tony Bloxham** carefully. We also encourage those Teaching Schools and MATs who may be eligible to engage, to look out for upcoming communications which will provide details of a meeting which all Teaching School Directors in the Test and Learn Pilot Area will be invited to attend.

You can also find further information on the portal:

Application Pack - <https://www.cpdportal-sw.org/index.php/find-documents/document-categories/system-leaders/teaching-school-hubs-application-pack-for-test-and-learn-phase-may-2019>

The Test and Learn Prospectus - <https://www.cpdportal-sw.org/index.php/find-documents/document-categories/system-leaders/teaching-school-hubs-prospectus-for-test-and-learn-phase-may-2019>

We will also continue to work with the DfE once the test and learn exercise is launched to help shape any future policy and advise on where the TSC believe things can be further improved / refined. The learning from the test and learn pilots will inform how this strategy may be expanded in future years.

5. EEF's New Regional Approach

Since 2011, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has been gathering and generating evidence to support teachers and leaders in schools across England. **From September 2019, the EEF is expanding this work to include a more direct, systematic and well-resourced support offer for schools in the South West, particularly those serving areas of disadvantage.** The aim is to ensure that, through increased access to evidence-based resources, guidance and programmes, schools can explore and implement strategies aimed at improving pupil outcomes in the region.

As part of this scale-up work, the EEF will soon be announcing a Regional Lead for the South West. The Regional Lead will work with colleagues across the system to coordinate the EEF's efforts, ensuring that schools can make best use of its tools, resources, and guidance reports, as well as the Research Schools Network's capacity and expertise.

They will be working closely with Team South West in a coordinated approach alongside key strategic and delivery partners in the region. In this way, the EEF is seeking to complement and add value to the activity already happening in the South West.

'We look forward to working with Team South West and supporting the excellent work that is already underway. The EEF, alongside the Research School Network, is committed to providing additional funding, guidance and expertise to support evidence-informed approaches for addressing the South West's regional priorities.'

Following on from the recent success of our regional programme in Cornwall, 'Maximising the Impact of the Pupil Premium' will be offered to schools across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay from September 2019. The flagship programme from the EEF will be led by Marc Rowland. Over 120 schools across Cornwall have completed this programme, returning to their schools with renewed evidence informed-plans for supporting Pupil Premium students to close the gap. More information on the flyer attached.

For more information and to secure your place:

- Plymouth and Torbay Schools: www.tiny.cc/plytorPP
- Devon Schools: www.tiny.cc/devonPP

The latest version of the EEF newsletter can be found here: <https://mailchi.mp/eefoundation/digital-news-alert-2668437?e=5c515488bc>

6. MAT CEO Network Update, from Dave Baker (Olympus Trust)

We held our final MAT leaders' day at Taunton Racecourse on 8th May to conclude a successful series of 3 events this year. A farewell talk from Lisa Mannall offered reflections on 2 years in post as RSC before she returns to being a MAT CEO in Cornwall in September. Lisa was able to share news that Hannah Woodhouse will take over from her as RSC which was received positively by those present.

Keynote talks followed from Sir David Carter: *How do you know where you need to go and how do you plan to get there?* and Dame Rachel de Souza, CEO of Inspiration Academy Trust: *Built to last; growing sustainability and ensuring quality* with food for thought from both. You can access the presentation resources for those keynotes here: <https://www.olympustrust.co.uk/events/>

Tanya Arkle, Deputy Director at the ESFA, spoke about current financial oversight, challenges and support: *What is all the fuss about?* in preparation for a joint RSC Office and ESFA whole day regional event for MAT leaders, chairs and finance directors in the autumn. The afternoon focused on Ofsted pilot inspections and MAT summary evaluations for executive leaders and local governance for chairs.

A review activity about the events this year concluded that we need more of the same next year so Dave Baker, CEO of the Olympus Academy Trust, who has coordinated the programme this year will work with RSC Office colleagues to finalise proposals for 2019-20 and details will be circulated as soon as possible.

7. RSC update May '19

The May 2019 edition of the RSC SW newsletter, with the latest updates from the RSC Office and DfE, can be viewed [here](#).

The Department for Education recently announced that Hannah Woodhouse, who is currently Deputy Director in the RSC SW, will be continuing her important contribution to education as she takes up the mantle of the Regional School's Commissioner for the South West from September. Lisa Mannall, after two years of supporting the academies system in the South West as RSC, will be returning to the sector as the CEO of a new MAT in Cornwall. Furthermore, the role of RSCs nationally will be evolving from September and more information will follow on this in future RSC SW newsletters.

The RSC SW MAT development programme, which focuses on supporting school improvement leadership and growing MATs, has now concluded for this academic year. The MAT Leaders Days will be run again next year, led by Dave Baker, and further information will be circulated shortly by Olympus Academy Trust. Following the success of the SW CEO Induction Programme and the Future MAT CEOs Training events this year, both programmes will be run again in 2019/20.

Contact supportandintervention.rscsw@education.gov.uk to express your interest in either of these programmes next year.

8. Diocese Update on RE Excellence Hub

The Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) are in the process of building up a 'hub model' of excellence in Religious Education and collective worship CPD. Training of 10 identified lead practitioners is underway to invigorate the teaching of Religious Education in their geographical areas across the Diocese of Salisbury. This work is closely linked to that of SACREs in Wiltshire, Dorset and Poole/ Bournemouth and the NATRE regional ambassador. The development of material to support the teaching of RE with ITT is planned for September 2019 and the SDBE welcome enquiries regarding commissioning of this work.

The SDBE provides a monthly leadership briefing signposting school improvement opportunities and key elements which arise from our close working with the Church of England Education Office, our own and neighbouring dioceses, the Teaching School Councils and Team South West. We would welcome the

promotion of this briefing to organisations which currently is accessible by requesting to be added to our mailing list, emma.waters@salisbury.anglican.org.

9. Support for Governance

Twenty-three local leaders of governance (LLGs) have recently been designated to work across the South West, following successfully completing the application process.

Leaders of Governance have proven skills and experience in school improvement. They are crucial in cultivating a self-improving and sustainable school-led system, in improving the quality and capacity of governance. **Local Leaders of Governance** have now been added to the team of **National Leaders of Governance**, adding 800+ additional hours of FREE support to our system leader capacity. Local Leaders receive no DfE grant, so in some cases you may be asked to pay reasonable travel expenses. Please discuss this before work starts.

Seeking governance support is straightforward. Go to <https://www.cpdportal-sw.org> > Find support and select 'find governance support' from the drop-down menu. Alternatively go direct to the request for support form, by using this link <https://www.cpdportal.link/teamsw/requestnlg>

If you need further information before making a request, please contact your Regional Governance Lead or the Project Manager direct. Contact details are below:

Subregion	Regional Governance Lead	Teaching School Link
A: Bristol, BANES, South Gloucestershire, Somerset and North Somerset	Geoff Mountjoy geoff.mountjoy@btinternet.com	Sian Kinder skinder.sw@tscouncil.org.uk
B: Swindon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire	Keith Clover keithclover@hotmail.com	James Passmore jpassmore.sw@tscouncil.org.uk
C: Dorset, Poole and Bournemouth	Keith Clover keithclover@hotmail.com	Fritz Penn-Barwell fpenn-barwell.sw@tscouncil.org.uk
D: Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, Plymouth, Devon and Torbay	Jackie Eason jeason@governorconsultant.co.uk	Teresa Lawrance tlawrance.sw@tscouncil.org.uk
Project Manager	Julia Steward jsteward@tscouncil.org.uk	National TSCSW representative Tony Bloxham

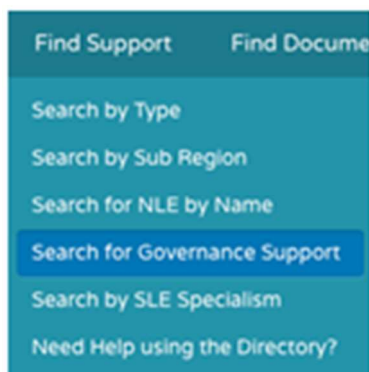
10. CPD Portal-SW News

The CPD Portal-SW regional collaboration platform continues to develop and support the school improvement needs of the region. The platform has seen a significant increase in traffic and usage over the Spring term. Engagement is at an all time high with over 85% of Teaching Schools across the South West now using the Portal to promote and manage their 'CPD Offers'. The Portal continues to evolve to

meet the school improvement needs of the region with number of key developments added this term. These developments have focused on:

Search for Governance Support

Search for and request Governance and Leadership support. You can now search for Governance and Leadership Support/Request Support from the 'Find Support > Search for Governance Support' menu.



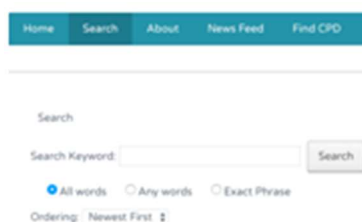
Regional Improvement Strand Dashboards

These are currently in development, although SEND, Governance & Leadership information can now be accessed from a tailored dashboard page containing key information supporting the regional improvement strand. These can be accessed from the 'Regional Improvement' menu on the Portal Homepage.



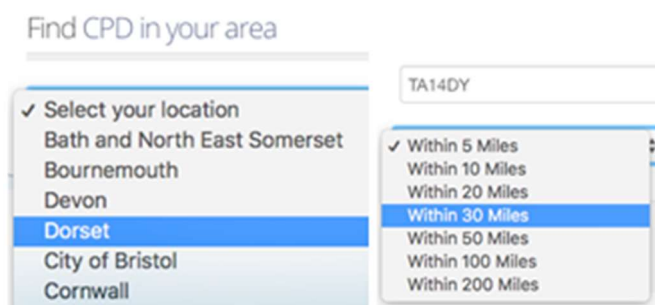
Site Search

Can't find what you need? Find the information you need, by using the new 'Search' tool from the Portal menu.



Find CPD in your area

Looking for CPD in your area? Now you can search by location, select your location from the 'Find CPD in your area' drop-down menu of the Portal homepage.



Presentations Library

Key presentations from meetings and events can now be accessed from the 'Find Documents' menu. From the documents page you'll now see a 'Presentations' area on the page.

There are many more developments planned in the near future, so keep checking the Portal at www.cpdportal-sw.org

Thank you all for the ongoing work you are doing in support of school improvement. TSC (SW) will be in touch again soon.

11. Maths SLE Training Offer from the Regional Maths Hubs

Please find attached a flyer that outlines this new offer that aims to support mathematics Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs) in developing their approaches to maths school improvement work including drawing on the expertise of, and aligning more with approaches used in, the Maths Hubs Programme.

There is also a very easy way for school leaders to find and access support from their nearest Maths Hub by using the [Find My Hub](#) search tool – this enables any school to put in their name, postcode or URN to find out which hub is their hub to work with.

Please feel free to distribute this sector letter across your networks.

Best wishes,



Chrysta Garnett
TSC Team South West Strategy Lead

Additional Information

TSC SW Central Team

Tony Bloxham:
Chrysta Garnett:
Gavin Richards:

TSC SW National Council Representative
TSC Team South West Strategy Lead
Collaboration Lead and CPD Portal SW lead

Kelly Broome:

TSC Central Administrator admin.sw@tscouncil.org.uk

TSC Regional Teaching School Links

Sub-Region A: Somerset, Bristol, Bath, NE Somerset and South Gloucs – **Sian Kinder**
Sub-Region B: Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire – **James Passmore**
Sub-Region C: Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole – **Fritz Penn-Barwell**
Sub-Region D: Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Plymouth & Torbay – **Teresa Lawrance**