



Summer Newsletter July 2017

Dates for your diary:

Network Meetings 2017/18:

CPD:	5 th October, 25 th January, 26 th April
StSS:	2 nd November, 8 th February, 14 th June
ITT:	28 th September, 15 th March, 12 th July
R&D:	9 th November, 22 nd Feb, 5 th July
Headteacher Meeting	28 th June 2018

(*All 10.30am – 12.30pm at St Aidan's School
Refreshments will be available from 10am.)

Other:

NQT Conference:

Part 1 - 9th November 1-4.30pm, King James's School
Part 2 - 21st June 1-4.30pm, St Aidan's School

RQT Conference:

25th January, 1-4.30pm, St Aidan's School

It has been quite a year for the YTSA!

28 YTSA ITT students have successfully undertaken our School Direct PGCE programme in partnership with Leeds, Leeds Trinity and Leeds Beckett Universities, culminating in a 'graduation' ceremony last week to celebrate the success of all our students. We particularly recognise the achievement of Caroline Buchanan, Geography trainee, who received the Forsythe Prize for most outstanding trainee from Leeds University.

Our ever extending CPD Programme now reaches more schools across our region than ever before with facilitators being drawn from schools right across the Alliance to deliver a programme covering topics and issues identified collaboratively by all our schools themselves.

Our Research and Development strand of work has continued to add genuine value to schools, particularly through involvement with the RISE and Myriad Projects.

Through its status as National Support School, St John Fisher has continued to lead School to School Support, pulling together bespoke programmes of support and provision for Bishop Young C of E Academy (formerly David Young Community Academy), Boroughbridge High School, Woldgate School, St Patrick's College and now Graham School in Scarborough.



We have maintained a continuing involvement in the Yorkshire Leadership Community, providing support for colleagues undertaking NPQ qualifications as well as the launch of the 'Women Leading in Education' Network.

We are delighted that an increasing number of schools are choosing to contribute to the work of the YTSA, we now number 25 schools within the Partnership with others in the pipeline.

A huge thank you goes to every school and all staff who have contributed to all the various programmes and the provision we offer. We look forward to welcoming all our schools back to St Aidan's for our final Headteacher Network Meeting of the year on 6th July.

Finally, we pay tribute to the immense work carried out on our behalf by Martyn Beer. I am sure you will join us in wishing him well in his new role at Bootham School, York.

Every good wish for a restful and recuperative Summer holiday.

CPD: (Next meeting Thursday 5th Oct, 2017)

The CPD programme for 2017/18 has now been finalised and the booklet is available in all the YTSA schools and in electronic form [here](#).

This year, there are 5 strands to our CPD offer, one of which is the Monday training programme where training sessions are run across the YTSA schools from 4-5pm. There are 6 key Themes for the Monday CPD sessions:

Theme 1: The challenges of the new curriculum

Theme 2: Preparation for inspection

Theme 3: Student wellbeing

Theme 4: Developing more effective learners

Theme 5: Manageable and meaningful

Theme 6: Effective targeting of pupil groups

Bookings can be made at any time on the Eventbrite website (eventbrite.co.uk) up to and including the Wednesday before each training session. Full details of the sessions are in the booklet and if there are any questions, please get in touch with Tori at admin@yorkshiretsa.co.uk.

The other CPD strands (detailed in the booklet) include the Masters accreditation with Leeds Trinity University, Subject networks, NQT/RQT conferences, C4S training day in March and opportunities from the Yorkshire Leadership Community.

This year has seen a significant growth, both in the number of schools participating in CPD provision across the Alliance and in attendance at events by teachers from the various schools. The evaluation of these



sessions suggests that the collaboration involved is hugely beneficial and that the opportunities it gives us for reflection and improvement are highly valued.

Finally, a sincere thanks to all who have offered their expertise and experience in the delivery of YTSA CPD sessions during the academic year 2016/2017.

Research & Development: (Next meeting Thursday 9th Nov, 2017)

The R and D leads from each of the YTSA schools have continued to be co-ordinate research initiatives. The RISE project (St Aidan's and Ryedale) is currently coming to a close, but St John Fisher and Tadcaster Grammar are both involved in the Myriad project at present. Opportunities to be involved in large scale research trials can be found at the EEF website (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) where schools are currently being recruited.

Our local Research School, Huntington (huntington.researchschool.org.uk) is an excellent source of information and help for anyone who is interested in finding out the latest research findings on a given topic and their regular newsletter is freely available.

One of our aims as a Teaching School Alliance is to underpin our CPD with sound and relevant research. Again this year, we have trained our facilitators with this in mind, and will continue to embed R & D into our CPD programme.

School to School Support: (Next meeting Thursday 2nd Nov, 2017)

S2S Support continues to be a large area of activity within the alliance. You may be aware that Easingwold School and 6th Form has now been sponsored by OAT and no longer needs the support from YTSA. We are now working on the coast at Graham School, and this will be the main area of work for the next year.

SSIF – Overview

The £140 million Strategic School Improvement Fund is a grant to support primary, secondary, middle, all-through, alternative provision and special academies and maintained schools, and pupil referral units. It is intended to further build a school-led system, and aims to target resources at the schools most in need to improve school performance and pupil attainment; to help them use their resources most effectively, and to deliver more good school places.

The fund will support a broad range of school improvement activities including, but not limited to, improving leadership, governance, teaching methods and approaches, and financial health and efficiency. The fund will support medium to long-term sustainable activities across groups of schools with a preference towards school-led provision, that is, support provided by schools, for schools.

We were intending to bid into the SSIF fund in June, however the advice was that three would be 'acceptable' to the NCTL from each LA. Our bid was going to be coastal, but Esk Valley TSA had already submitted an application. This highlights the problem with the process. It is still disjointed with no one having an overview of what needs to be done where. LAs, RSCs and Diocese are not joining up. We do intend to bid in the September round.

SLEs

This year we have been able to appoint 7 new SLEs within the Alliance and at the end of June they met together to discuss the possibilities for next year. The main area of need is at leadership level. If you have capacity, please let Tori know.

ITT: (Next meeting Thursday 28th September, 2017)

The Teacher training arm of YTSA recently celebrated the successful completion of PGCE by 28 of our 16/17 cohort of trainee teachers. The trainees did wonderfully to negotiate the various ups and downs that are typical of the PGCE year and many were offered jobs in YTSA schools including four in the lead schools St. Aidan's and St John Fisher. They returned to share with us in a presentation and celebration of their achievements and we are very proud of the manner and commitment they have demonstrated throughout the course. Their feedback about the support and quality of mentoring that they received during their recent placement 2 is very positive and we are soon to ask them to complete a full evaluation of the training year which will enable us to enhance our delivery further.

Forty trainees across various subjects have been recruited for 2017-2018 and we look forward to working with them and offering our support as they embark on the most noble of professions. Presently we are working hard to allocate them placement schools and we very much appreciate the support and element of flexibility that our Alliance schools are able to offer during this fairly difficult process. YTSA will once again deliver to them a full programme of professional studies and we are hoping that this will involve greater school experience in our Alliance schools in order to continually provide contrast and enhance their training.

We cannot emphasise too much the importance of our YTSA mentors in the training process. They have by far the most crucial role to play in whether a trainee reaches their potential or not. It is therefore crucial that mentors have the right qualities, skills and experience to fulfil the role effectively. Mentor training will be provided by each HEI soon after the summer holidays and we will pass on those dates to schools. YTSA will also provide all mentors with an updated mentor 'toolkit' and provide generic mentor training on its use in order to ensure that our mentors are as fully equipped as possible. We would very much appreciate the support of schools in releasing mentors for this training especially as we are working with two new Universities this year (York and York St John) after the University of Leeds ceased to operate teacher training after this academic year.

The second part of our annual NQT conference took place on the 15th June at St. Aidan's. 25 NQT's from across the Alliance took part in the event looking at Engagement and Questioning as well as 'Work – Life' balance. The event also provides crucial opportunities for networking and social time for NQT's as they near the end of a demanding year. Thank you to Chris Kilby at St. John Fisher and Lisa Holdsworth at King James for their valuable contributions during the event.

Shortly we will provide our partner schools with the schedule of when trainees will be in school. As you are aware, different Universities have different start dates and programmes and some start earlier than others. Presently we are working on making the schedule as easy as possible for our partner schools to operate. As a School Direct provider, we are keen on getting our trainees into school early to enhance their experience. We can confirm that our trainees regardless of HEI will be in Professional Studies sessions at



St. Aidan's or another school on a Wednesday from 13th September and this will continue until the start of February.

As we near the end of another school year, can I take this opportunity to pass on our thanks to everyone that has been involved with ITT this school year. Have a restful and enjoyable summer ready to go again in September!

With very best wishes

John Wood, Rob Pritchard, Ruth Mcquire and Dave Holdsworth