



Christmas Newsletter December 2019

Dear Colleagues

The Christmas holiday is almost upon us and at the end of a long and busy term I am sure we are all ready for a well-deserved break. Throughout the last term YTSA has been active in all of the main areas of our work. CPD sessions have been well attended and with excellent feedback received we can be confident that we are meeting school as well as personal professional needs. ITT Coordinators are working extremely hard with 27 trainees in placements across our Alliance and we are very grateful indeed to those partner schools for your invaluable contribution to our ITT programme. Recruitment for September 2020 is going well although we still have capacity to take on further trainees if you are aware of any potential candidates who may be interested in training through YTSA. Our School to School support work is as important as ever and we are so grateful to colleagues who have committed themselves to work with other schools in this vital role.

Many thanks indeed for all of your work and support making YTSA the positive driver that it is for those both within and outside our Teaching School. Have a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Chris Burt, Director of YTSA

CPD: (Next meeting, Thursday 6th February 2020)

We have enjoyed a busy programme of professional development this term, running training sessions across different YTSA schools on eight separate Mondays of the term. Facilitators from twelve of our schools planned and delivered sessions for our benefit and sincere thanks go to them for this investment of their time and sharing of their expertise and experience.

Coming up in the Spring term are the second parts of many of the Autumn term training sessions, for example Metacognition, Memory for learning, Middle leader training; there are also new 'one off' sessions, such as 'Teaching High Prior Attaining Students' early in the term. Everybody is welcome to attend and the Eventbrite booking platform gives further details of each session; if you would like further information prior to booking, please ask your school CPD co-ordinator, or contact Tori or myself directly.

This term has also seen the Subject Networks planning individual meetings and events; we are trying to encourage the use of our Sharepoint facility across the YTSA and the Network Leads for each subject have been made aware of this.

The first of our NQT conferences took place at King James' School in November and received excellent reviews; the second part of this takes place in the summer term at St Aidan's School. The RQT conference is taking place at Horsforth School on January 23rd; this event was highly rated last year, with some relevant and helpful advice from practising teachers and school leaders. This event is focused on teachers in their second and third years of teaching; bookings can still be made on Eventbrite for the RQT training.

The Autumn term also saw the first Research Lead training event, the second part of which is Jan 30th, based on the EEF RISE project. Katie Hunter led this, teaching more about how to access reliable educational research, then how to use it to implement research based policies in schools.

Finally, we are about to recruit the next cohort of PGCert/Masters students; Andrew Pearce from Leeds Trinity University is coming into St Aidan's on Thurs 16th Jan at 4pm to run the 'initial interest' meeting. If you require further details of how to pursue this, please get in touch and/or attend this short meeting where Andrew will be available to answer questions directly.

Next term sees the visit of Mary Myatt, to run our first mini conference for School Leaders. She will be running an afternoon session entitled 'Leading with integrity' for YTSA School leaders. This will be held on Wednesday March 18th at 1.30pm and Eventbrite is open for bookings. I cannot recommend Mary highly enough for her wise and thoughtful insights into teaching and leadership in schools.

For any further information, please visit the site below and/or contact Tori or myself directly.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/yorkshire-teaching-school-alliance-9897107163>
t.bramah@staidans.co.uk or r.mcquire@staidans.co.uk

Ruth McQuire, YTSA CPD Lead

Research & Development: (Next meeting, Thursday 6th February 2020)

During Katie's absence, Kirsty Round is kindly putting together the Research Bulletin, which I hope you have received in your in-box. Kirsty has selected some great material for us to read and digest; I hope that you continue to find these helpful.

Katie Hunter, YTSA R&D Lead

School to School Support:

I would firstly like to thank all those colleagues that have supported our support work during this busy term and wish everyone a very restful and happy Christmas.

During the autumn term we have been supporting three schools as part of the Bradford Opportunities Project. Our Senior Leaders of Education have been working in a variety of departments including Science, Food Technology, Geography, History, Mathematics and SEND and have helped to develop to schemes of work, model teaching, and support a range of staff including non-subject specialists. Feedback from the schools we have supported is hugely positive and recognises both the expertise and commitment of our colleagues and the impact they have made. Our work with Bradford continues until the end of this year.

During the Spring Term we are planning to focus on developing a market strategy so that we can deploy as many of our newly recruited SLE's as possible. As lead for StSS I am very proud of the capacity, breadth of knowledge and experience we have as a team and I am committed to finding new projects for us to support.

Working as a system leader can sometimes be challenging but it is very rewarding knowing that you are sharing your skills and knowledge beyond your own school. If you are interested in becoming an SLE in the future, please don't hesitate to contact me for an initial discussion.

Many thanks

Nigel Beetles, YTSA StSS Lead

ITT:

Please may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved with delivering our PGCE course September including our mentors, Coordinators, University staff and school staff delivering the course and our highly valued administrative team. It has been a tough but very rewarding term and we are delighted with the progress of our trainees so far.

This year's cohort of YTSA ITT students have both made an excellent start to their PGCE course and made a big impact on the YTSA community since starting in September. They have worked in a very positive manner showing a willingness to be receptive to advice and committed to improving all aspects of their teaching. Our feedback from placement schools, University staff and staff delivering the 'Professional Studies' element across YTSA schools has been incredibly positive showing.

We realise that this is a tough year and coming back after Christmas can be demanding often requiring trainees to 'go again' in new placement schools. It would be excellent if we were all aware of this in the coming weeks and were able to support and encourage them in the early stages of their new placements. If trainees do feel a little 'flat' please remember that there are a number of YTSA and University staff available to speak to or help and we would encourage you to get in touch without hesitation.

Recruitment for next year is 'steady' (read into that what you will!) but needless to say if you know anyone who is considering becoming a teacher, please encourage them to get in touch with us without hesitation. The national recruitment picture is a little gloomy still and it would be great if we could all do our bit to nudge up the numbers.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday.

Dave Holdsworth, YTSA Director of ITT