



## Newsletter July 2021

Dear Colleagues

There is no doubt that this has been a year on which we will all reflect with mixed emotion. It has certainly been challenging and at times extremely difficult but we will also look back on many positive and inspiring stories. Despite all the madness, contingency planning and ever-changing goal posts, much has been achieved and much has been learnt in a short space of time which can only benefit us as we move into the future.

As Ruth outlines below, this year has shown that we can adapt to meet the challenges of remote engagement and the benefits of having strong subject networks to support our staff have been palpable. Katie's regular Research and Development bulletin has been gratefully received by all our partners and I am delighted that our programme for 2021/22 will draw more clearly than ever on the link between R&D and CPD to ensure we maintain a strong evidence-based approach in the interest of providing the best possible professional development for our teachers. We are immensely proud to have witnessed the successful graduation in June of our cohort of 27 new teachers most of whom have secured employment across our region and will be the first to work within the new Early Career Framework. We are excited once again to have a strong cohort of ITT trainees joining us from September 2021 on our renowned School Direct Programme and we are hugely grateful to all colleagues who contribute each year to the vital work of 'growing' new teachers. As ever, I extend an extremely warm invitation to others who may wish to get involved, please get in touch.

My thanks go to Ruth McQuire, Katie Hunter, David Holdsworth, all our CPD Leads and ITT Coordinators for everything you have done to ensure an extremely productive and successful year in the face of many challenges. We look forward to many more to come. Thanks also to Tori Bramah YRSA Coordinator for making everything happen across all our strands of work.

From September we will be operating within a slightly different landscape under the new name of Yorkshire Schools Alliance (YSA) but our conviction to continue to collaborate and work together with our valued YSA partner school colleagues for the mutual benefit of staff and students alike, will remain as strong as ever.

I wish you all a restful and recuperative Summer holiday.

Chris Burt, Director of YRSA

### CPD:

Firstly, a sincere thanks to all of our facilitators this year; we have continued to pursue our collaborative training programme, despite the many challenges faced by all schools. Planning and leading a training session for colleagues is always time consuming (and a little daunting!) and to take this on in such a year as this is especially admirable! We continue to base our training on a reliable evidence base and Katie has worked with facilitators in order to ensure that this is the case.

Secondly, thank-you to all who have attended a YTSA training session. We have adapted well to using the online platform, Teams, and although we miss meeting in person, we have benefitted from being able to attend remotely and, as such, overcoming the geographical barriers that separate us.

The Monday 4-5pm programme continues to be well attended, and we did manage to run both the NQT sessions on line for 25-30 of the YTSA Newly Qualified Teachers. Their programme included the more traditional sessions based around pedagogy and positive behaviour, but also featured practising Heads of subject who explained their route from NQT to their current role. This year, the programme also included a session from our Social Emotional Mental Health practitioner, to focus on our own mental well-being.

Finally, thank-you to all who lead the networks in the YTSA. Subject networks run throughout the year in order to provide an opportunity for collaboration with colleagues in other schools. These have been much appreciated by many, particularly in a year where we have been working out the best way forward. We also continue to run networks in non-teacher areas such as

Exams Officers and Careers; again, much appreciated in a time of great change!

Our new 2021-2022 YSA CPD Brochure is ready to send to all schools and we hope that it will inspire and encourage you as you consider the next phase of your teaching experience. We have external speakers joining our programme this year; Craig Barton, and James Durran will feature during the course of the year; bookings will open at the start of the Autumn term!

Warmest wishes  
Ruth McQuire,  
YTSA CPD Lead  
Deputy Headteacher, St Aidan's

### **Research & Development:**

Thank you for all of your support regarding the R and D Bulletin; we will continue to send the bulletin in the new academic year. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas as to how we can improve it or if you have anything that you would like us to focus on in the bulletin, please just drop me an email.

As a new addition to the CPD brochure, we have included some evidence/research based 'go to' sources for teachers. We hope that these prove useful, alongside all of the resources already on Teams.

*For those wanting their Research fix before the end of term:*

Durrington Research School published [this blog](#), this week. In the blog, they discuss how to make the theory shared in CPD and training become the reality in classrooms. It is a useful read for Heads of Department, CPD leads and SLT ahead of the September training days. In [this blog](#) aimed at teachers, DRS explain how teachers can use the EEF implementation guide to plan for a change in our teaching so it will stick; again, a useful read ahead of the new academic year.

Katie Hunter,  
YTSA R and D Lead  
Deputy Headteacher, Ryedale School

### **ITT:**

Making the decision to enter the profession and start your PGCE year always feels like the start of a journey that will have its fair share of twists and turns. So much so that during our Induction in June, we ask our trainees to complete a journey tag in order to encourage them to reflect on where they are, look

ahead and plan targets to help them negotiate the journey ahead. After last year's cohort were severely disrupted, I'm sure that many of our trainees were full of trepidation.

From a trainee perspective, we're aware that this has been a tough start to their teaching career but we are delighted with the progress and outlook of our fantastic cohort of YTSA trainees over the past year. Along with staff from our university partners, we have tried to maintain a regular weekly contact with our them through Professional Studies, weekly reflections and Professional mentor contact with Wednesday morning availability for trainees to 'check in' on Teams. Having seen the group so regularly since September, I am full of admiration for them. They have remained upbeat, good humoured and supportive of each other. The start of a most difficult placement was completed almost seamlessly and we should not underestimate the character and qualities needed to be able to go into a new environment and deliver lessons remotely to students you have never met whilst receiving verbal feedback from a mentor possibly also that you have never met! Impressive, they have done brilliantly and I feel sure this will stand them in good stead for their ECT years.

May I also pass on my grateful thanks to the staff from the University of York, Leeds Trinity University, Leeds Beckett University and of course to all of our partner schools who have contributed to the support of our trainees and contributing to our Professional Studies programme since September. The feedback we have received from trainees has been incredibly positive and the value and learning that they gain is fantastic. We would like to congratulate all of this year's cohort and wish them well for their future careers.

I think we all realise that this year will be one that sticks in the memory. We're hoping that from September the green shoots of recovery may become apparent and we might be back to some normality. Perhaps we can all dig in and take some inspiration from the late Captain Tom Moore who was able to help us all keep going and stay optimistic.

Very best wishes and thanks again to everyone in partner schools, partner HEI's and YTSA.

David Holdsworth,  
YTSA Director of ITT  
Assistant Headteacher, St Aidan's