

Recent Events

Our new course for Middle Leaders (LDML) is proving very popular with an excellent cohort enjoying the sessions. It is interesting to learn of the number of staff who have been promoted after attending our middle leader courses – so much so that one school has asked for bespoke training for all their middle leaders! Applications for the next round will be available soon – keep a look out on our website under CPD.

Another successful course that has been delivered is training for appraisers. It has proved particularly useful for new appraisers and for the more experienced who might have to conduct difficult conversations.

The **Effective Clerking** course received fantastic feedback and was enjoyed by all as they learned excellent tips from Michelle Robins. The **OTP course** being run by Lady Joanna Thornhill and Downs View continues to be very popular with staff praising the benefits of the course.

The Primary Maths Coordinators who attended our session on the new Maths Curriculum found the information useful and plan to keep in touch with one another as further developments take place.

Our NPQSL candidates have enjoyed another face-to-face day in Sittingbourne and are now ready to undertake their Closing the Gap project, where they can be involved in trials of interventions to help close gaps for students in their own schools.

Our NQT Induction sessions have been very well attended and teachers found the training with behaviour specialist Peter Hobbs to be very useful. His words of wisdom can be used by all staff in all types of school and help to build positive relationships between teachers and pupils.



Lesley Donald
Director of ATA

SLEs

Congratulations go to Justin Dodd, one of our Maths SLEs, who has been selected by the National College to go on a week's visit to China in January to research how Maths is taught so successfully in their schools. We look forward to his findings and learning about his experiences!

Applications for Cohort 4 have been shortlisted and interviews are taking place on 20, 21 and 22 November - we wish them every success!

If you would like to request any support for your school, please contact Lesley Donald

Contact Us

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Research and Development

One of the most exciting events in our calendar is the **FREE** Research & Development Symposium on Friday 6 December at the Marsh Academy, New Romney. The ATA is keen to undertake research and development and our focus for the year is Pupil Motivation. Expert Alan MacLean (psychologist and author of 'The Motivated School') will be our keynote speaker and Tom Welch from the research company EdYou will present his findings on High Achieving Working Class Boys; motivation workshops will also be a feature of the day. This **FREE** event is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in the latest educational research and learn about our Closing the Gap project. Make sure someone from your school attends!

After the event, we are hoping to establish a core ATA Research & Development group which will meet regularly throughout the year. Thanks go to all who attended our briefing session on 1 October, but we would like all schools to be involved in this worthwhile project.

ITT

Our trainees are enjoying being with the ATA – so much so that they have made a video recommending our organisation!

Check it out on

<http://www.kentunion.co.uk/jobs/virtuallair/providers/ashfordteachingalliance/>

CPD Sessions Not to be Missed in Term 2!

An **EAL session** has been arranged on Tuesday 10 December at Ashford Business Centre, 1.30 - 4.00pm with expert Wendy Cobb, a former LA Adviser, National Primary Lead and CCCU ITT trainer. This course is free to NQTs whose schools are registered with the ITN programme. For all other teachers, the cost is £30.

The ATA's **Building Inspiring Lessons (BiL)** for secondary teachers will run throughout Term 2 - details of the various sessions can be found under CPD. This series of afternoon sessions will make teachers aware of what is required to achieve Ofsted Good (and above) consistently. The pilot course which took place in June/July received high praise and staff involved have commented on the improvement that is now evident in their lessons.

Liz Pope, RE specialist and SLE, is running a full day course on 26 November for secondary RE teachers - **Run a Successful RE Department**. Places are filling up fast and so be sure not to miss this great opportunity to learn how to deliver high quality RE!

Our Second **TeachMeet** will take place at Highworth on Monday 2 December from 3.45 – 5.00pm with the focus of Lesson Hooks. These sessions are a great opportunity for all staff in their first or second year of teaching to meet and exchange ideas and tips and get to know other colleagues in the area. Come along for a fun event!

Full details available on our website or contact Lesley Donald for further information