

**Happy New Year!** Welcome to the new term and I hope that you had a good festive break and are looking forward to what the ATA has to offer this term. **Remember**, please get in touch if the Alliance can be of help in any way. As a result of suggestions from schools, we are organising the Maths/English Transition Day and the RE GCSE course. We can do bespoke training for schools and will ensure that we meet your needs if you let us know. I would love to hear from you!

## Research and Development

The R&D Symposium on Student Motivation held in Marsh Academy's wonderful new building on 6 December was a great success with all delegates enjoying Alan McLean's entertaining and thought provoking presentation along with the interesting afternoon workshops. A follow-up session was held on 9 January at Highworth to discuss how to take the processes forward. The next meeting is on 25 February 2014 at 4.00pm at Highworth Grammar School.

Lady Joanna Primary is delighted to be leading a Maths research project which will see them and other schools working with NCETM in an exciting way to benefit our students.

We are also very pleased to announce that we have been successful in winning a bid to look into subject assessment along with Brockhill and Goldwyn. More details will follow!

## Specialist Leaders of Education

It is with much pleasure that we announce the designation of 3 more SLEs – Sue Murray (English), Sarah Collins (ITT and NQT) and Bridget Watts (SEN). Please remember that if you would like to commission any of our SLEs, please contact Lesley Donald. The Alliance already has SLEs working with schools in Maths, English, Early Years, RE and Leadership and Management Development with positive effects.

Very excitingly, one of our SLEs, Justin Dodd, is off to China on 10 January for a week to research how Maths is taught in Chinese schools. He will report back to the National College and us and we are planning a Maths & English day dealing with transition and Level 6. On his return, the date will be announced – look out for details!

**Lesley Donald**  
Director of ATA



## Leadership Development

Our very successful LDML course continues to prove popular with middle leaders who are looking to develop their expertise in preparation for the next stage in their career. Delegates for the next round are now being signed up – please do not miss this fantastic opportunity.

Our NPQSL candidates continue to work on their in-school projects and are enjoying various face-to-face days to complement their on-line learning.

The Alliance hosted a NPQH application workshop on 7 January for prospective candidates. You can see that we are doing all we can to help prepare our future leaders!

## Contact Us

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## CPD

One of the most successful courses we ran last term was for Heads of RE. 10 members of staff enjoyed the day run by our outstanding SLE, Liz Pope. Tips were given on how to run a successful department and as a result of the interest and following such great feedback, schools have asked that she organise a **'How to Run a Successful GCSE RE Course'** - taking place on **Tuesday 25 March at Highworth (all day)**. Please book your place early to avoid disappointment!

The monthly **NQT** afternoon sessions saw Wendy Cobb, EAL expert from CCU, addressing over 30 delegates (also open to non-NQTs) on 10 December. January's **Assessment for Learning** afternoon is on Tuesday 14 January at the Towers Conference Centre 1.30 – 4.00pm. Make sure you don't forget to book!

Our **Building Inspiring Lessons (BiL)** sessions were well received by the attendees over the 6 week course. The secondary course will run again in Terms 5 & 6, while a primary course is designed this term. These courses are to enable staff to become consistently good in their delivery of lessons and effectively develop and build on good practice. Watch this space.

Our successful second TeachMeet took place on 2 December. Around 20 teachers in their first or second year of teaching came along to exchange ideas on Hooks and enjoyed the lively chat over a cup of tea. Brockhill have volunteered to host the next session – look out for more information!

The ever popular **OTP Course** run by Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School and Downs View Infant School once again did not fail to please with delegates stating in their evaluations how much their performance has been enhanced. Future dates are to be announced.

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

## School Direct

The ATA trainees are undertaking their contrasting placement over the next few weeks to broaden their experience and help give them a wider view of schools and education. They appear to be enjoying the demands of teaching and have returned after the Christmas break with much enthusiasm for their second placement.

## 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/virtualfair/providers/ashfordteachingalliance/>