

Welcome! The next two terms are busy ones for students and staff with public exams from SATS to A-Levels . However, the ATA will continue to run interesting events and meetings and try to fulfil your needs. Please do not hesitate to get in touch!



Lesley Donald
Director of ATA

Transition Curriculum Day

Thank you to all those of you who attended the Ashford Transition Curriculum day on 31 March. It was good to see primaries and secondaries working so closely together and building up an understanding and appreciation of each other's curriculums in English and Maths. All of us want our Year 6/Year 7 students to build on their skills and talents and this useful day allowed the foundations of those bridges to be put in place. We now look forward to developing the primary-secondary links over the next two terms. Further events will be organised - keep a look-out for details! If you were unable to attend the day, but are interested in Year 6/Year 7 transition or Level 6 work in English and/or Maths, please contact me and I'll see what can be arranged.

Specialist Leaders of Education

The next round for teachers wanting to become SLEs is in May. In order to become an SLE, a teacher must be an expert in their chosen area. Teachers must be outstanding middle/senior leaders with at least two years' experience and a first-class knowledge in a particular field of expertise. They must also have a successful track record of working effectively within their own school and/or across a group of schools. Their headteacher will be asked to write a reference and agree to the SLE being released for up to 15 days per year, if required.

If you would like further information, please contact office@ashfordteachingalliance.co.uk.

School-to-School Support

Thanks to receiving substantial funding from The National College for Teaching and Learning, the ATA is pleased to be supporting several schools in the area, helping with Maths, primary and secondary literacy and KS1/KS2.

As stated above, if we can be of any help, please get in touch and we'll see what we can do!

CPD

NQT Induction Programme- Inclusion/SEN and the Use of TAs - As always these sessions are very well attended with fantastic feedback! The next event will be 'Preparing for Subject Leadership and EYFS' on 17 June at Ashford Business Hub between 1.30pm—4.00pm.

TeachMeet! - Another very popular TeachMeet! took place on 18 March at Brockhill Park Performing Arts College with over 70 attendees.

How to Run a Successful GCSE RS Course - Once again, Liz Pope's GCSE RE day proved very popular with schools and staff were high in their proviso of the day's tips and advice.

Research and Development - Research and Development is really taking off in Ashford thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of ATA staff! The Maths Project being organised by Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School in conjunction with NCETM is progressing favourably with over 20 schools involved!

Research Project on Assessment - Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, Goldwyn School and Highworth Grammar School are all continuing to work on changes to assessment under the inspirational lead of Dr Elisabeth Pickles.

The Ashford Teaching Alliance is involved in a Talent and Succession pilot which is being run over the next two terms. We are also part of the Kent & Medway successful bid for supporting schools and we await the outcome of a regional bid for an exciting Maths Project which, if won, will give several schools the opportunity to be involved.

ITT

Our first ever group of School Direct trainees are on the final leg of their training! Pre-final assessments have been booked for many of them and we look set to get some very promising results!

Recruitment for Cohort 2 for a September start is higher than the national average, which is very encouraging, although we still have a very limited number of places in the Sciences, Maths, RE and Computer Science. If you know of anyone interested or who would like a school taster day to see if a career in teaching is for them, then please get them to contact Glynis Masters by email gmasters@brockhill.kent.sch.uk

Canterbury Christ Church tell me that the ATA is one of the biggest providers in Kent and with more schools asking to join our School Direct programme, this is very good news for us. All the hard work participating schools are doing to ensure the very best for our trainee teachers is worth it!

Contact Us

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