

Happy New Year!

2015 certainly started with a bang with the ATA being awarded £60,000 to support schools. We look forward to putting action plans in place and seeing schools fulfilling their aims!

Other big news is that Kent and Medway have been successful in their bid to become a Maths Hub. The scheme will be launched this term with all areas in Kent and Medway being involved in this exciting two-year project with Highworth's SLE Justin Dodd as the Maths Lead.



Lesley Donald
Director of ATA

The inspiring Achievement Through Arts Project continues. Pupils and teachers have had some fantastic creative making days in preparation for the final performance on Monday 2 February. Six schools have enjoyed working with professional artists and a resultant SMSC policy will be drafted and made available to all schools.

Kent and Medway held a very successful conference for over 35 Specialist Leaders of Education in conjunction with Canterbury Christ Church University in November. The ATA has 13 SLEs at present - listed on our website - and we would like to have many more! Please see the ATA website for details - the next round will be in March/April.

Research & Development

We have received excellent feedback relating to our recent Research and Development Symposium that took place on 2 December, delivered as part of the ATA's work with the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation). The venue itself was praised and the focus of the day was most appreciated - thank you to The Marsh Academy! Comments include: "We all thought it was an excellent day." and "From my point of view particularly, the assessment content was very interesting!"

Our keynote speakers, Dr Bob Burstow (KCL) and Professor Jeremy Hodgen (Nottingham University), provided some excellent input on evidence-based practice and feedback respectively. Our follow-up workshops provided a chance to unpack the implications of their insights for our own practice.

Our next Symposium will be at The Marsh Academy on 19 March. The theme of the day will be evidence-based practice at classroom level. There will be direct input from Professor Coe and training in the principles of Research Lesson Study. The afternoon will include workshops to help staff design a lesson study cycle to tackle a particular gap with regard to specific students in a single class. We are also looking into providing a session specifically tailored to new teachers alongside those aimed at experienced practitioners.

School Direct

Our trainees are looking to enjoy their alternative placements in Terms 3 and 4. Professional Studies sessions continue at Brockhill with Glynis Masters and at CCCU where subject days are also held.

Professional Development Opportunities

- The courses covering the equivalent of **Level 6 work in Maths and English** were so popular that they will be repeated so that those unable to attend in Term 2 have an opportunity to do so. Schools will be informed when dates are set.
- The **NPQSL** got off to a great start in November with 19 candidates embarking on their school improvement task; they next consider Closing the Gap on 14 January.
- The **LDML** cohorts in Ashford and Dover continue to enjoy their successful sessions and delegates continue to work on their middle leadership improvement projects. Liz and Glynis are also doing some bespoke training with individual schools.
- The effective **OTP** sessions being run by Lady Joanna Thornhill School and Downs View Infant School continue to be well subscribed with the next session on 28 January 2015.
- Downs View Infant School has also been running a very popular course for **Teaching Assistants**; the next session is on 15 January and further sessions are running into next month.
- Highworth's Chair of Governors, Peter Aves, held his first session of **Governor Training** in November on the structure of the Governing Body. The next session is on Finance Management on 29 January with a final one for Secondary Schools only on Student Governors on 25 February; each is from 5.00pm until 6.00pm at Highworth.
- **NQTs** found the session on Differentiation and Personalised Learning and dealing with EAL pupils useful in November. The next session with **Behaviour Management Specialist, Peter Hobbs**, on 13 January at Aldington Eco Centre will definitely be of value as he received great reviews from last year's NQTs, several of whom said Peter's session was the best of all. Don't miss the opportunity to attend!
- We are delighted to announce that we have our **Essence of Teaching** course ready to go with local schools and teachers in conjunction with our SLE, Liz Pope delivering how to enhance good classroom practice in primary schools. Dates will be announced shortly. Do not miss this excellent opportunity to meet other teachers, visit other schools and extend good practice.

For full details of all our courses and how to book, please visit our website. Remember, too, we can offer bespoke training for individual schools - just contact us!

Contact Us

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