

Welcome to our first Newsletter!

The Ashford Teaching Alliance is now up and running! We are looking forward to finding out your needs and doing what we can to meet them so that every pupil in our area benefits from our partnership and has a great experience at school. Partnership is our aim – we want us all to work together to share our expertise and provide support when required. Our plans are to speak to every headteacher to find out what their school would like the Alliance to offer and, in turn, what they can bring to the Alliance. We have already been to speak to a few headteachers, but if you would like a visit, please e-mail office@ashfordteachingalliance.co.uk. We look forward to building relationships and shaping our pupils' education together. These are exciting times!

Lesley Donald
Director of ATA



Dates for your Diary

11 June: Launch of the Ashford Teaching Alliance at Ashford Enterprise Centre, Towers School 4.15 – 6.00pm. Afternoon tea will be served from 4.15pm and Sir John Rowling will speak at 5.00pm on Personal Excellence and Organisational Excellence. Sir John is a former Headteacher of a Beacon Partnership and Leading Edge School and is now Director of PiXL Partners in Excellence, a collaborative formed to raise standards in schools. At this event you will be able to find out more about the exciting plans of the ATA and learn about the BIG6. Please reply to office@ashfordteachingalliance.co.uk by 7 June. We look forward to seeing you!

22 May: Applications for this round of **Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs)** must be submitted to the National College for Teaching & Leadership (NCTL) by this date. Teachers who are eligible 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. RAG ratings are awarded to the on-line application and, if successful, candidates will be interviewed on the 17 + 18 June. Please see the National College website for full details (www.nationalcollege.org.uk). The next round for SLEs will be in October.

School Direct Update

Recruitment is going really well with a very strong group of trainees ready to start their new careers in September 2013. Cohort 1 of the Ashford Teaching Alliance School Direct programme will have their induction day in July and they are all very excited about it! We are now spread across ten schools with others still asking for trainees – it's not too late if you want to join us! Please email Glynis Masters at gmasters@brockhill.kent.sch.uk if you want to find out more about the programme and having a trainee in your school with the ATA.

We hope this newsletter has been useful. We plan to send them out regularly so everyone can be kept up to date. We would love to hear from you! See you on June 11!

Good News!

The ATA has successfully organised its first cohort of NPQSL candidates for training by one of the official National College for Teaching and Leadership licensees, LLSE. Enrolment is at the beginning of June and we wish the 17 delegates all the best as they develop their senior leadership skills.

Research and Development

We are keen to undertake some Research and Development projects and are currently considering investigations into EAL, Maths, Boys' writing and Pupil motivation. If you would like to be involved in any of these research areas or have other suggestions, please let us know.

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Contact Us

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