



WINCHESTER

TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Welcome to the first newsletter produced by the team at WTSA. Since the formation of the alliance in the Spring of 2016, things have really 'taken off' and we have been working on a number of projects both in Winchester and beyond. Here, we bring you up to date with our recent activity in the areas of teacher training, professional development and school to school support. As always, if you want to find out more, please don't hesitate to contact us on enquiries@wtsa.info.

Rob Jeckells
WTSA Director



Trainee Teachers Making Excellent Progress

WTSA's current School Direct trainee teachers are making excellent progress towards obtaining qualified teacher status (QTS) and completing postgraduate certificates in education (PGCE)

Both our primary and secondary trainees have all completed their first term successfully as well as six week placements in second schools. They are now two thirds of the way through what has been a 'full on' but enjoyable year for them so far.

The blend of 'university delivered' and 'school based' training sessions, alongside plenty of classroom experience, has proven to be a popular formula and something which WTSA will continue to develop for the 2017/18 academic year.

Secondary English trainee teacher Roger Bratchell states, "I have enjoyed being fully immersed in school life whilst also having time out to reflect on educational issues on training days."

From the Primary Phase, trainee, Sian Scanlan reports that "this year has been a really steep learning curve but I have loved training to teach and I would strongly recommend doing so with Winchester Teaching School Alliance."

If you are interested in training to become a primary or secondary school teacher, please contact Rob Jeckells, WTSA Director, on enquiries@wtsa.info for further information.

Up Coming Recruitment Events

Tuesday 2nd May

6.30 pm—8.00pm

at

The Westgate Lower School,
Cheriton Road,
Winchester

School to School Support: Winton and WTSA



Winton Community Academy Headteacher, Nathan Thomas, reports on his school's journey of improvement and the support provided by Winchester Teaching School Alliance.

"Winton is a small school in Andover, which prior to January 2016 had been in and out of special measures for approximately 7 years. The leadership team recognised that in order to progress we needed support in a wide variety of areas and, therefore, approached a number of local 'outstanding' schools who were all

more than happy to provide assistance. Kings' School was one of these schools and had provided support prior to the formation of WTSA, when they were formally designated as a National Teaching School. We were delighted to look at some specific school-to-school support as part of our drive to reach a 'good' Ofsted judgment by January 2018.

The current projects we are collaborating on are integral to our Academy Development Plan: the progress of middle ability boys and the attainment of high ability learners. WTSA secondary schools have a proven track record and a great deal of experience in these two areas. We have focused on triangulating the support so that WTSA staff are working directly with Winton staff, students and parents in a bid to improve outcomes for these targeted groups.

The collaboration is working very successfully for a number of key reasons. Firstly, the support is bespoke and based on an open dialogue about the school's needs; we have never felt like we are 'being done to'; there is a real sense of collaboration and mutual respect.

Secondly, the Winton staff are receptive and do not feel threatened by the experience; after years of observations there is a genuine 'open door' policy and staff have no concerns that there is any hidden agenda. Finally, the support is being driven by the two leadership teams who are meeting 'little and often' to maintain momentum again, with very specific measureable actions."

WTSA Common Closure Day Professional Development Winchester-Wide

Winchester children enjoyed a long weekend while staff from the city's schools spent time together developing their skills on Friday 27th January.

The new Winchester Teaching School Alliance set up the event, which saw more than 550 teachers and other professionals take part in 21 different events in 8 different schools. The Common Closure Day allowed staff to share their expertise on subjects as diverse as literacy, the adolescent brain, fire marshalling and mental health.

Organiser Maggi Edwards, WTSA Co-ordinator, said: "This has been the largest event we have organised so far, with more than 20 schools taking part. It was great to see people from all the different schools learning from each other and generously sharing their expertise. With budgets tight these days, it is vital that staff training represents good value for money. It was great fun, too!"

