



# WINCHESTER

## TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Welcome to the third newsletter from Winchester Teaching School Alliance (WTSa). We are currently approaching the end of our second year working across the local area and our core aim remains improving the provision and outcomes for all children in schools in our area. When we launched WTSa, we said that we would do this by:

- providing high-quality training for the adults who work with those children, through initial teacher training and continuing professional development;
- sharing what we know and what we do, so that all our colleagues and all our schools can benefit.

In this newsletter, we hope to provide you with a flavour of some of our current projects and hope you will find these of interest. If you want to find out more, or work in a local school and would like to become more involved, please contact us via [enquiries@wtsa.info](mailto:enquiries@wtsa.info) or look at our website at [www.wtsa.info](http://www.wtsa.info)



Rob Jeckells  
WTSa Director

## WTSa School Direct: a great way of training to teach!

Although it has been reported in the national press that applications for teacher training courses are down by up to 40 per cent, we are pleased to report that the number of applications we are receiving for our School Direct Course is similar to that of last year. Currently, we hope to have a cohort of trainees starting in September 2018 that is the same size as, or slightly larger than, this year's. Below, some of our previous trainees share their thoughts about WTSa teacher training.



Zach, The Westgate School: WTSa combined professional development and colleague support perfectly in my eyes. I really enjoyed the fact that you met with other trainees who were in your position; this gave you the chance to discuss and learn from each other.



Rachael, Kings' School: I really enjoyed working within a school from the word go. Being immersed directly into the life and general workings of the school meant that I immediately felt part of the Kings' teaching team.



Charlotte, St Faith's C of E Primary School: I was teaching whole classes from early on, always learning from my colleagues and mentors. Being in a school setting meant that I was always able to access up to the minute experience from teachers who have been refining their craft for decades.

**Next  
School Direct  
Recruitment  
Event**

Thursday 3rd May  
6.30pm—8.00pm at

The Westgate  
School  
(Lower School Building)

## WTSA's HEI Partner graded Outstanding for Initial Teacher Education

From the outset, WTSA's schools and The University of Winchester have worked in absolute partnership to create and deliver our School Direct teacher training programmes. When the University was inspected recently, schools from across the WTSA alliance were visited with the inspection team greatly impressed by the skill level of the teachers trained within the alliance and the support provided for them by colleagues, both in schools and from The University of Winchester.

We were delighted to hear of the Outstanding judgement awarded to The University. Within the full OFSTED report, key findings noted are:

- Recruitment and selection systems are exceptionally rigorous and identify trainees with the attributes, values and potential to be good and outstanding teachers.

- Trainees demonstrate exceptionally high levels of personal and professional conduct. They have demanding expectations of themselves and of their pupils' learning and behaviour.
- All training, school- and centre-based, models and is built on best practice. Trainees benefit from lively, interactive learning and consistent messages from all trainers.
- There are high levels of individual support and direction tailored to promote trainees' learning and ensure their success.
- There is very evident and deep-rooted mutual respect between all partners.



## School to School Support that really works – it's official!

WTSA remains committed to working in partnership both within and beyond our alliance to ensure that schools are supported in a variety of ways and standards of education remain high.

Evidence of WTSA's impact in this area was seen recently when Winton Community Academy in Andover secured a Good judgement in its OFSTED Inspection in January following a period of support from the alliance. Within the full report, it is noted that the support we have provided has been effective, improving the quality of teaching and learning and the achievement of the most able pupils.

Winton Headteacher, Nathan Thomas, meanwhile, stated, 'WTSA support has been central to the sustained progress made by the Academy.'



## CPLD Update

It has certainly been a busy time in the world of Continuing Professional and Leadership Development (CPLD) within WTSA. Our third annual Common Closure Day took place on Friday 26 January 2018 with over 30 morning events hosted at a variety of schools across the city receiving excellent feedback. In the afternoon colleagues from 17 Schools came together at Thornden Hall in Chandler's Ford to hear guest speaker Andy Whittaker give an entertaining presentation on the importance of the work that teachers do. Andy certainly provoked debate and divided opinion!

The Common Closure Day is only one part of WTSA's ongoing CPLD offer, however. Currently, this includes the following opportunities:

- A middle leadership course
- A programme for aspiring leaders for both primary and secondary phase colleagues
- A programme for aspiring primary phase senior leaders
- Regular Subject Network Meetings
- Programmes of meetings and training for both recently qualified teachers (RQTs) and newly qualified teachers (NQTs)

If you are interested in finding out more about any of these opportunities please contact Maggi Edwards on [enquiries@wtsa.info](mailto:enquiries@wtsa.info).