



# WINCHESTER

## TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Welcome to the fifth newsletter from Winchester Teaching School Alliance (WTSa). We are currently approaching the end of our third year working across the city of Winchester, providing the next generation of committed and enthusiastic teachers in our local area. We remain committed to delivering high quality training and professional development, ensuring the provision and outcomes for children in schools is the best it can be.

In this newsletter, we aim to provide an outline of our current work and projects and hope you will find these interesting and insightful.

Within the Alliance, we currently have over 25 School Direct trainee teachers. Over half of these colleagues have already secured their first position as Newly Qualified Teachers ready for September. I am delighted to report that many of these appointments are within our own group of schools. Included in this newsletter are some reflections from two of our current cohort. Applications for 2019/20 remain buoyant.

We can be contacted at [enquiries@wtsa.info](mailto:enquiries@wtsa.info) or by visiting our website at [www.wtsa.info](http://www.wtsa.info).



Richard James  
WTSa Director

**WTSa ITT**  
**Recruitment**  
**Event**  
8th May  
6.30pm—8.00pm  
at  
The Westgate  
School

## Two current School Direct Trainees share their journeys



This year has been incredible! The course is very successful at preparing students for teaching; we are in the classroom for the majority of our time, but we are also well supported through specialist university days and specific Winchester Teaching School Alliance (WTSa) training days. The training days are held in local schools and really like the work we do at university with our practice.

Both of my placement schools have been very supportive, although it was initially a steep learning curve, it certainly prepared me for teaching. I would recommend that future students try to get to know other staff within their placement schools quickly and attend as many after school events as you can to really immerse yourself in the school community.

I would definitely recommend the Schools Direct training with the Winchester Teaching School Alliance for future students. Teaching is a demanding profession, but it is also incredibly rewarding and an amazing experience, especially when you see the excitement on the children’s faces during your lesson!

**Gemima—WTSa Primary School Direct Trainee**



My desire to retrain as a teacher was kindled by my own experiences, as a Learning Support Assistant.

The practical nature of the School Direct route into teaching appealed to me. It offered me an opportunity to develop to become an effective teacher through direct classroom experience.

I applied to train as a Computing Teacher through the Winchester Teaching School Alliance (WTSa). My training place offer was conditional on completion of a Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) programme in Computer Science. The free twelve week SKE programme at The University of Southampton provided me with the required skills and subject knowledge to be able to teach.

The Alliance has supported me throughout my training year. My mentors and colleagues have provided encouragement, constructive feedback and practical advice. The course requirements have demanded skilful planning and time management to balance my family and social commitments. The learning curve has been steep, but not insurmountable. There have been some breathtaking highs as my pupils engaged in drama to master the workings of the Central Processing Unit and participated in 'whiteboard relays' to record their understanding and misconceptions.

I would thoroughly recommend the School Direct route into the teaching profession.

**Leslie—WTSa Secondary School Direct Trainee**

If you would be interested in finding out more about training to teach with Winchester Teaching School Alliance, please contact Maggi Edwards, WTSa Co-ordinator on 01962 861161 or via [enquiries@wtsa.s.info](mailto:enquiries@wtsa.s.info)

## CPLD Update

### WTSa Common Closure Day IV a Huge Success

Winchester Teaching School Alliance (WTSa) ran its fourth annual Common Closure Day on Friday 25 January 2019 with 17 training and development morning events being held at a variety of schools across the city.

Sessions that took place ranged from 'De-escalation Techniques' for classroom practitioners, led by colleagues from Osborne Special School, to 'Lunchtimes – Effective Strategies for the Playground' for Primary lunchtime duty staff.

Delegates from 22 schools participated in a programme that was designed to provide professional development for those working in a variety of roles in primary and secondary education.

In the afternoon, colleagues from across Winchester came together at Kings' School to hear guest speaker Chris Sweeney give an entertaining presentation on behaviour management and the view that in schools 'when the adults change, everything changes'. The entire day was very well received and we look forward to starting to plan for Common Closure Day 2020 in the near future...

Currently, WTSa offers the following CPLD opportunities:

- A middle leadership course
- A programme for primary phase senior leaders
- Mental Health for Primary Phase Staff
- Adolescent Mental Health (coming soon)
- Primary Subject Network Meetings
- Programmes for recently qualified teachers (RQTs) and newly qualified teachers (NQTs)



If you work in a WTSa school and are interested in finding out more about any of these opportunities, please contact Maggi Edwards at [enquiries@wtsa.info](mailto:enquiries@wtsa.info)

