

# COLLABORATION WORKS

## A warm welcome to the spring term edition of 'Collaboration Works'!

The Alliance for Learning have been incredibly busy over the spring term providing training, support and professional development to teachers, support staff and Headteachers alike; and we are also pleased to welcome Urmston Grammar and Belverdere Academy as Strategic Partners, bringing new areas of expertise and supporting our SCITT expansion plans.

With regards to the SCITT, I am excited to announce that we have changed our name from The Greater Manchester Bright Futures SCITT to the **Alliance for Learning SCITT** – which will improve understanding of the relationship between our Teaching School, SCITT and BFET.

We have been particularly busy hosting exciting visits for Chinese Headteachers and an Ambition School Leadership Headteacher Study Tour; with both sets of guests spending time observing lessons at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls and learning more about our health and wellbeing programme and the impact this is having across our alliance schools. I am pleased to share news that we have joined the Ambition School Leadership Steering Group for the NPQ qualifications and next year I can confirm we will be delivering NPQML and NPQSL.



Our six month Mental Health training package for the Warrington 'Future in Minds' project has now come to an end. The impact of this programme has been staggering, 92% of the participants have increased confidence in knowing how best to support a young person with a mental health problem and 94% have increased their knowledge and understanding of how best to support that young person. All schools have really started to prioritise and embed a variety of initiatives and

polices in their schools to raise awareness and support their students. Some of the comments include:

**"I finally understand the need to link physical activity with mental health work in school"**

**"Great course- all information delivered clearly and in an engaging way, really useful"**

**"The bespoke back at school sessions helped to further embed the work"**

**"My team are more confident to deal with MH issues"**

Our work around health and wellbeing is starting to expand at an incredible rate - Warrington have been so impressed with our work that we are now delivering Mental Health First Aid training across all Warrington primary schools. We have recently developed a new partnership with the United Learning Multi Academy Trust who are accessing our Youth Mental Health First Aid programme for their schools on a national basis; and our submission for work around mental health has been published on the Parliament UK Website as part of their national inquiry.

I do hope you enjoy reading more about what we have been up to over the spring term and I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming months via our courses, meetings and support services.

Best wishes,

**Lisa Fathers**

Head of Teaching School/  
Co-Principal BFET



# Initial Teacher Training/SCITT



Alliance for  
Learning SCITT

Train Teach Transform

## SCITT

Exciting times lie ahead for our SCITT as we bring news of a name change to the Alliance for Learning SCITT, prepare for our first Ofsted visit and continue to interview and offer placements to trainees for our 2017/2018 programme.



This term saw our current trainees starting their second placements in a 'contrasting' school; whilst uprooting and starting over in a new school can be a challenge, it is also a great way of gaining a new perspective to take into their final placements next term.

The Autumn and Spring terms are always a whirlwind of information events and a great opportunity to meet those who are interested in training to teach in 2017/2018. Our team have been out on the road at Universities, schools and Train to Teach events across the North West, which combined with a comprehensive marketing and recruitment campaign has resulted in us already securing 18 trainees for next year, which puts us ahead of the same position last year. We are also pleased to have successfully recruited 5 trainees for the Researchers in Schools programme.

We have already started to improve provision for our current trainees and the 2017/18 cohort will all complete the Mental Health First Aid certificate as part of our standard offer as well as a programme focusing on personal resilience. This year we have begun celebrating the work of our mentors by allowing them the opportunity to demonstrate the quality of their work against the new mentor standards.

We are really excited to note that we have record numbers on our NQT programme. Part of our success in Initial Teacher Training is about how we look after our teachers in their first few years of teaching, so our improved NQT programme is integral to this. The Teaching School continues to be an appropriate body for NQTs.

## Paid Undergraduate Internship Programme - Maths and Physics

We are delighted to have been awarded a contract to run a government funded undergraduate internship programme for the second year running. We would now like to invite partner schools to get involved, which means hosting one or two interns for 4 weeks from mid June to mid July. Interns will get to experience life within school and receive some teacher training (provided by ourselves). 5 of our interns from last year have applied for our ITT programme, so this is great way to recruit in shortage subjects. Schools will be paid for their time.

## Future Teaching Scholars

We are looking for partner schools who would be willing to offer 6 days of school experience across the year to our Future Teaching Scholars.

## School Experience Programme

We are pleased to advise that despite cuts to government funding, we are still able to offer school experience for anyone who is interested in teaching. We currently have placements available in Sciences, Maths, History and Geography.

If you know anybody that is interested in teaching please do ask them to contact us for more information or to visit the Department for Education website where you can [register with the School Experience Program](#) and search for Altrincham Grammar School for Girls.



# Professional Development

If the year continues like it has started it will be our best year yet for CPD with more schools engaging in our range of high quality training programmes than ever before!

Our suite of health and wellbeing courses have proven to be extremely popular as schools are prioritising on embedding a whole school wellbeing approach to physical and mental health in a bid to reduce the number of mental health issues that we are seeing in the press.

Our suite of courses include mindfulness, Youth Mental Health First Aid Lite, Youth Mental Health First Aid (both Mental Health England), an Advanced Mental Health with Early Trauma course and a course around Female Genital Mutilation. And of course, mental health is one of the most common factors of long-term sickness in adults too, which is why we are pleased to be able to offer Adult Mental Health First Aid from September 2017.

Our new suite of courses for 2017/2018 will be available soon, but we will be offering: Challenge Partners Peer Review, Challenge the Gap, OTP, ITP, SLE Core Training, NPQML, NPQSL, Foundation Coaching, Coaching in Context, Higher Level Coaching, Leadership Residencies, FGM, Mindfulness b. Foundations, Mindfulness Pupil.b, Mindfulness for Teachers, Mindfulness Skills for Life, Youth MHFA, Youth MHFA Lite, Adult MHFA and Advanced Mental Health with Early Trauma.

**If you can't wait until Sept 2017 then this is what we have coming up over the summer term:**

## Teaching and Learning

- Participating in a Challenge Partners QA Review at another school is considered by many senior leaders to be 'the best CPD ever'. Our [Challenge Partners Review](#) on 12th June is **Free to Senior Leaders in Challenge Partner schools**

## Leadership Development

- Coaching - our three phased Coaching programme aims to improve coaching skills and embed a coaching culture in your school. [Coaching in Context](#) starts on 22nd May, [Foundation Coaching](#) on 24th May and [Higher Level Coaching](#) on 28th June.
- Are you a senior leader? Looking to collaborate with another school, in order to develop essential leadership skills? Then sign up for our [Leadership Residencies](#) which takes place on 28th April 2017 and 12th July 2017



## Mindfulness & Wellbeing

- Our new [Adult Mental Health First Aid](#) course starts in November 2017
- At the Alliance for Learning we offer a variety of Mindfulness courses, working with groups or individuals, to enable them to discover new and effective ways of coping with emotional issues, health problems, relationships, low self-esteem, lack of confidence, lack of energy and motivation. Our [Mindfulness Skills for Life](#) course starts on 8th May.
- Have you ever wondered why some children behave the way they do? Why they choose to sit at the back of the room? Why they struggle to concentrate? Our [Advanced Mental Health with Early Trauma](#) course on 8th May (Secondary Schools), 14 July (Primary Schools) is facilitated by Lisa Wisher - a qualified Social Worker, Psychotherapist (in Advanced Training) and adopter.

To book onto any one of our course please click the links above our contact Diane Pullen at [dpullen@aggs.bfet.uk](mailto:dpullen@aggs.bfet.uk) or 0161 912 5912.



## Bespoke In-house CPD

Our bespoke in-house CPD service is proving to be a huge hit with our schools, we have been commissioned to deliver 18 twilight sessions on Mental Health 12 bespoke sessions around T & L or Leadership in the last term alone!

Please do contact Claire Critchley if you would like us to tailor a training programme for one of your forthcoming staff development twilights or INSET days.

# School to School Support/ Specialist Leaders of Education

In January 2017 we successfully recruited and trained a further 10 SLEs, expanding our team to 68; and I am pleased to say that 90% of our new recruits are already out on deployment supporting our schools and creating capacity and improvement.

Another area which continues to expand is our subject and thematic reviews. This term we have been busy undertaking a number of Maths reviews and are in the process of organising 13 different subject reviews within our alliance schools.

## Spotlight on an SLE

Name: **Emily Bowyer**

School: **Altrincham Grammar School for Girls**



I awoke the morning of my first SLE deployment excited and nervous having cram read the Ofsted report so many times, almost terrified that I would be grilled and tested upon it. As I arrived at the school I took a deep breath and shouldn't have worried at all as they were so welcoming and there was no Ofsted report test!! My first deployment saw me assist with an internal review of the Citizenship & PSHE department as a subject specialist. I worked alongside two deputy heads to work scrutinise, observe and explore the already fantastic practice that existed within the department.

As a HOD of Citizenship & PSHE it can be quite an isolating experience and I particularly enjoyed meeting another passionate and clearly very able HOD and her department. We explored ways together that the department could move forward and considered a realistic vision for the future, creating manageable steps to make changes and improvements happen. It was a privilege as an SLE to be a part of the support and participate as just one of the many cogs that assisted in developing teaching and learning within this Citizenship & PSHE department.

## SEND Diagnostic Review Service

Welcomed news from the Government regarding £215 million for schools to adapt their premises for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities has put SEND provision at the forefront of people's minds, resulting in a number of schools enquiring about our SEND Diagnostic Review service.

Run in partnership with Melland High School, who are a designated National Support and commissioned by Manchester LA to provide SEND support to other high schools, the service provides an in-depth analysis of the achievement and outcomes for SEND pupils, personal development, behaviour and welfare, the effectiveness

of leadership and management, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.

If you think your school would benefit from one of our SEND reviews please do pick up the phone and have a chat.

## Networking Opportunities / Hub Meetings

Interested in sharing good practice and picking up some tips? Then our next School to School Networking Meetings will be held on:

**English** - 28th June, Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, 4.00pm start

**PSHE & Citizenship** - 14th June, Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, 4.00pm start

## The Alliance for Learning Teachmeet

Learn something new, be amazed, amused and enthused!

A relaxed, informal Alliance for Learning Teaching School Teach Meet to collaborate and share innovation in the secondary sector. The theme for this event is around Health & Wellbeing, covering topics such as PSHE, brain friendly learning, PE, pivotal curriculum and mental health.

Lisa Fathers our Head of Teaching School / BFET Co-Principal will share our wellbeing journey and our keynote speaker Patrick Ottley-O'Connor, Principal at ESSA Academy and international speaker will talk about the importance of staff wellbeing too.

3rd July, Wellacre Academy, 4.15pm start

**Bookings for delegates, presenters and exhibitors are now being taken via:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wellacre-teachmeet-tickets-32350003732>



# Research & Development



The Alliance for Learning have been involved with research and development of non-specialist maths teachers by running a programme called Teacher Subject Specialism Training alongside the University of Plymouth.

The project began in 2015 with 11 delegates and this year there are 45 delegates from Manchester schools working to demonstrate impact of maths training on their understanding and pedagogy.

We have just been awarded a role in the TALIS video study as a regional champion and this project will look at the relationship between teaching practice and student outcomes specifically within the context of mathematics. The study aims to better understand which aspects of mathematics teaching are related to student learning, and the nature of those relationships. It will also explore how teachers teach in different countries and contexts. The TALIS Video Study is being undertaken in 9 countries.

## Young People in Humanitarianism Conference - Tuesday 20th June 2017 (Year 8 & 9)

Staff and students at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) would like to invite Year 8 & 9 students to an inspiring, free event at the University of Manchester to learn more about current affairs from people who specialise in issues related to humanitarianism, conflict and peace-building, disasters and global health.

The conference will provide an enriching experience for students, serve as an asset to student's further education applications (UCAS) and provide insight into humanitarianism as a career path that they may not have previously considered. This will be an opportunity for your students to interact with others from Greater Manchester to support their communication and interpersonal skills.

If you think this would be something you would like to participate in, please contact the University of Manchester [www.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.manchester.ac.uk) by 31st March.



## Manchester Museum activities

### Expand your KS4/5 students' research skills

Cost: **£50**

Length: **1.5hrs**

Numbers: **20 students max.**

Work with a PhD researcher from the University of Manchester to explore how museum objects contribute to research. Students will interrogate the research process and develop their own research plan in response to our collection.

Find out more: <https://learningmanchester.wordpress.com/research-skills/>

### A Sustainable World?

Date: **Summer Term - date TBC**

**10am-3pm, 35 places available for KS5 students**

Cost: **FREE**

What's your students' impact on the world? Could they inspire a generation to change their actions? Find out how current research is confronting sustainability issues in this thought provoking study day. Students are challenged to use this insight to devise a sustainability marketing campaign to make people act.

Find out more: <https://learningmanchester.wordpress.com/a-sustainable-world/>

## Physiological Society

The Physiological Society is currently reviewing its education and careers resources, and would really like to hear from teachers about the topics and skills they find challenging to teach, and how it can encourage students to consider science as a career.

Primary teacher survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FFZ56K2>

Secondary teacher survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FZ5ZQRF>

# MATHS HUB

There has been an extremely positive start to the Spring Term, with an increasing number of new schools engaging in our range of high quality professional development programmes, working groups and projects.

January brought about the UK leg of our Shanghai Teacher Exchange, where we welcomed Monica and Smile from Shanghai to St Marys C of E Primary School. Monica and Smile generously showcased their pedagogy and teaching methods with over 200 teachers from our learning community. The impact of their work has been impressive considering their stay was only for 2 weeks.

In terms of raising our profile and the work of NW1, we have been busy delivering several problem solving workshops around the North West which has led to us being approached by the BBC to help them record students filming their own problem solving clips. Stephanie Gill and Simon Mazumder were honoured to have been invited to the House of Lords earlier this month to celebrate the work being carried out at level 3.



We were all excited about the Singapore maths fractions workshops at St Mary's School on the 20/21st March. Delivered by Yeap Ban Har, this two day workshop looked at teaching fractions using the Singapore maths method. Many children, and adults for that matter, find fractions difficult to understand but by the end of the workshop everyone had surely 'mastered' the technique!

Another notable event is our second NW Maths Hubs Conference which takes place on Tuesday 11th July 2017, 9-3.30pm at Whites Hotel, Macron Stadium, Bolton, BL6 6SF. Key Note Speakers include Ems Lord, Director of NRICH and Andrew Jeffrey, The Mathemagician. Book your place via: <http://www.nwmathshub3.co.uk/index.php/conference>

## Maths CPD

Does your school have specific Maths CPD needs this year? This is a flavour of some of the courses we have running over the summer term. Our new 2017/2018 offer will be available soon!

[Making Sense of Maths for Post 16 GCSE Resit](#) Starting 30th March 2017.

[Primary Maths PD Support Programme](#) - this programme will now be running in the summer term - please contact us for dates

We also run a number of Working Groups - if these are something you are interested in joining please do let us know.

**For more information or to book onto one of the above courses please contact Sarah Ludlam on [sludlam@aggs.bfet.uk](mailto:sludlam@aggs.bfet.uk)**

