



# Newsletter

## Spring 2014

Bradford Birth to 19 Teaching School Alliance, Tel: 01274 543212  
St Edmund's Nursery School and Children's Centre, Washington Street, Bradford BD8 9QW

### Exceptional growth in our Alliance



From eight schools that helped found the Bradford Birth to 19 Teaching School Alliance last year, we now work with over 40 schools – nursery, primary, all-through, secondary schools and academies. Our schools work in widely differing contexts and are drawn from right across Bradford district. As an Alliance, we are collaborative by intent and design – improving schools, working together with a shared interest in supporting school

improvement, in developing school workforce and in improving the education of the area's children.

### The Big Six Areas of Teaching School Activity



The **BIG 6**

Teaching schools are part of the drive to give schools more freedom and responsibility for managing school improvement. As well as offering training and support for their alliance themselves, teaching schools identify and co-ordinate expertise from their alliance, using the best leaders and teachers to:

1. Play a greater role in training new entrants to the profession
2. Lead peer-to-peer professional development
3. Identify and develop leadership potential
4. Provide support for other schools
5. Designate and broker specialist leaders of education (SLEs)
6. Become involved in school-based research and development

After only being in existence for 6 months or so, we are not yet working fully in all these areas, but as Bradford Birth to 19's work expands, so our role and expertise in all six areas develops.

## Schools working with the Alliance include:

Abbey Green Nursery School & Children's Centre  
Atlas Primary School  
Bradford Academy  
Carlton Bolling College  
Carrwood Primary School  
Chellow Heights Special School  
Clayton CE Primary School  
Cottingley Village Primary School  
Denholme Primary School  
Dixons Allerton Academy  
East Morton CE Primary School  
Eldwick Primary School  
Girlington Primary School  
Harden Primary School  
Heaton Primary School  
Hebden Royd CE Primary School  
Heptonstall Junior, Infant & Nursery School  
Hill Top C of E Primary School  
Hirst Wood Nursery School and Children's Centre  
Horton Park Primary School  
Knowleswood Primary School  
Lapage Primary School and Nursery  
Lees Primary School  
Ley Top Primary School  
Lister Primary School  
Marshfield Primary School  
Midland Road Nursery School and Children's Centre  
Myrtle Park Primary School  
Newhall Park Primary School  
Oxenhope Primary School  
Parkwood Primary School  
Priestthorpe Primary School  
Ryecroft Primary Academy  
Saltaire Primary School  
Shirley Manor Primary School  
Southmere Primary School  
St Edmund's Nursery School and Children's Centre  
St James' Church Primary School  
St Paul's CE Primary School  
St Philip's Primary School  
Strong Close Nursery School and Children's Centre  
Tong High School  
Wibsey Primary School  
Worth Valley Primary School



## Initial Teacher Training



**School Direct** is a new approach to initial teacher training, where schools take the lead in selecting, recruiting and training new entrants to the profession. We work in a strong partnership with Bradford College in this route.

Over 20 primary and secondary trainees are being trained now in Alliance secondary and primary schools.

We registered again for School Direct for recruitment this year and were pleased to be approved by the NCTL for a large increase in our training places – 80. Our new trainees will be starting their training in our Alliance schools in September. They will be following both salaried and unsalaried training routes towards gaining QTS at both secondary and primary level. From September, we anticipate a great deal of training will take place in Alliance schools. Alliance school teachers will take a lead in training; training will involve our outstanding practitioners developing trainees' teaching skills and confidence by working directly with children.

It's been busy year for recruitment so far, with interviews being held in seven school settings. All prospective trainees get interviewed by senior leaders and Bradford College representatives in schools. At interview, all trainees are expected to teach – typically teaching a full or part lesson, sharing the reading of a book with children or having the opportunity to work with younger children in a nursery environment.

In our first two months or so, we have offered over 40 training places, with around 35 remaining to be filled. We have been really pleased with the quality of the applicants we have offered places to. If you know of graduates or people expecting to graduate this year who would be interested in training, perhaps in your schools, point them in the direction of our [website](#) or ask them to look for St Edmund's on the [UCAS website](#).

As I write, we still have secondary teacher training places available at in English, Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Modern Foreign Languages, History, Geography, Business Studies, Health and Social Care, Art & Design, Design and Technology, PE and Drama. We still have around 15 places for Primary teacher training, including both general primary and 3-7 age phase routes. We have two places identified for trainees with an interest in working in special schools, or in a primary DSP setting.

## Early intervention for school improvement



Bradford Birth to 19 was commissioned by the NCTL to bring together a small number of schools to look at early school intervention through local information sharing. Our focus will be the review both of our tracking systems, and of school leaders' subsequent monitoring and evaluation of the impact of a school's intervention strategy. We hope that we can share best practice, through joint practice development and also identify strategies for other schools that may be looking to develop effective interventions that support children in making at least expected progress.

## Bradford Birth to 19's plans to become a SCITT

The Alliance has been given £20,000 of grant funding by the NCSL to support our plans to work together to develop a submission to become a SCITT. Our Teaching School's Strategic Board thought that we should take the opportunity to look seriously into this important development. SCITT stands for School-Centred Initial Teacher Training, where an Alliance of schools takes overall responsibility to lead in all aspects of the initial training of teachers. A Bradford Birth to 19 SCITT would be able to recommend QTS on its own for both our trainees and also for those of other school alliances. Initially, we thought we would look at SCITT training for 20-30 trainees, focusing on

- Primary phase training, including EYFS
- Training for KS2/3, focusing on English, Maths and SEN specialisms
- Inspiring interest in school leadership at an early career stage
- ITT firmly based in evidence-based practice led by excellent classroom practitioners

We thought an early focus on supporting training routes based on QTS (with PGCE through our partner HEI) would evolve into leading training from Level 1 through to postgraduate training.

If your school would be interested in being involved in working with other Alliance schools in developing our SCITT proposals or in our ITT work more generally, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us.

## Joint Practice Development



The School Improvement working group of the Bradford is chaired by Linda Marshall, All-Through Principal of Bradford Academy. As an Alliance we have determined that we do not wish to replicate CPD that is already being provided elsewhere. We have committed ourselves to supporting Joint Practice Development (JPD). JPD is about teachers, often from different schools and contexts, working together to improve their practice. ***'When teachers work together in collaborative teams to: clarify what students must learn; gather evidence of student learning; analyse that evidence; identify the most powerful teaching strategies to address any gaps in student learning and deploy them, the subsequent impact can be significant.'*** (John Hattie).

Linda spoke at the NCTL National R&D Conference in November about JPD and the work of Bradford Partnership and the emerging work of our Alliance. There is interest at a government level in our work around JPD. We would welcome the involvement of any Alliance schools in our twice termly School Improvement meetings. If you're interested in finding out more, please get in touch.



## Specialist Leaders of Education

Specialist Leaders of Education are outstanding middle and senior leaders who have the skills to support individuals or teams in similar positions in other schools. They understand what outstanding leadership practice in their area of expertise looks like and are skilled in helping other leaders to achieve it in their own context

We appointed four Specialist Leaders of Education in November 2013 – Chris Tolson, from Ryecroft Academy; Brenda Castle, from Marshfield Primary, Jessica Midgley, from Bradford Academy and Gail Caulfield from St Edmund's. They bring a wealth of experience to the Alliance in many areas of nursery, primary and secondary school improvement. They will be available for deployment from the Summer Term. These colleagues will join our current SLE, Lindsay Mihailovic from St Edmund's.



Jessica Midgley  
Bradford Academy



Gail Caulfield  
St Edmund's



Lindsay Mihailovic  
St Edmund's



Brenda Castle  
Marshfield Primary



Chris Tolson  
Ryecroft Academy

If you're interested in finding out more about the work of SLEs either as a prospective SLE or as a school who might benefit from having an SLE deployed in your school, just give me a call.

Although the application process to become an SLE is closed at the moment, we'll be offering up several more SLE posts to apply for in the Summer Term. To find out more see

<http://www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/index/support-for-schools/specialist-leaders-of-education-programme.htm>

## Research & Development and CPD

### Closing the Gap



Bradford Birth to 19 TSA successfully bid to be involved in this exciting national R&D programme, in which partner schools will trial a number of interventions, focusing on pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. Bradford Academy, Horton Park Primary School and Heaton Primary School have joined us in this exciting research initiative. Across England, over 700 schools will be finding out how effective 12 commonly-used intervention programmes are in accelerating pupil progress. This exciting R&D programme, coordinated by CUREE, will be the first time there have been national scale trials of this nature. Our Alliance's work will be focused this year on the effectiveness of two intervention tools - Research Lesson Study and Inference Training. We intend to feed back lessons learnt from our research and roll out training sessions next year.



## School to School Support



Bradford Birth to 19 SLEs will play an increasing important role in supporting school improvement. Anne-Marie Merifield from St Edmund's and Sharon Hogan from Midland Road are National Leaders of Education, and are able to provide support for school leadership across various settings. As a National Support Schools, St Edmund's and Midland Road are able to use any of their staff to support school improvement projects.

Working alongside Bradford Council and the Bradford Primary Improvement Partnership (BPIP), we have applied successfully for NCTL NLE and LLE Deployment Fund grant funding to support four school partnerships, enabling Alliance schools to work with other Alliance schools to improve teaching, learning and outcomes for their children. This work will involve Local Leaders of Education (LLEs) and SLEs coaching and mentoring leaders in some of our most fast-improving schools. We have indicated to the NCTL our willingness to be involved in piloting the recruitment and deployment of new LLEs in the Bradford area.

## Future Alliance Meeting Dates

All meetings start at 8am at St Edmund's.

### Strategic Board:

Wednesday 26th March 2014

Wednesday 11th June 2014

Wednesday July 9th 2014

### School Improvement Group:

Friday 7th March 2014

Friday 9th May 2014

Friday 27th June 2014

### ITT Group:

Friday 14th March 2014

Friday 16th May 2014

Friday July 4th 2014

## Contact:



### Christian Bunting

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The Bradford Birth to 19 Teaching School Alliance

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