Teaching School Update

There have been many exciting developments since the last Newsletter.

We have had the initial meetings of all the TOGs. Each TOG has produced an audit that has been sent out to Alliance schools. The results of the audits are currently being analysed so that needs and areas of expertise can be identified.

Thanks to HTI for producing and analysing the Leadership Development/CPD Audit and to everyone who has completed this and the ITT/School to School Support Audits. It is through these that a TSA Prospectus for 2012/2013 will be produced.

Jackie Tomlinson (St Martin de Porres) and Paul Roberts (Fox Hollies) have joined the TSA Steering Group as Primary and Special School representatives.

SLEs and Lead Professionals have now been appointed.

Applications for funding and to take part in research projects have been successful—read on for more details!

Best wishes and thank you.

Maire

Maths Event

Tuesday, 20th March 2012

Bishop Challoner Catholic College

Morning: Preparing students for problem-solving in GCSE Mathematics examinations

20-30% of marks available on GCSE papers are now awarded to students for demonstrating problem-solving skills. This session will help you to help students to develop skills necessary for success in these areas.

Afternoon: Supporting students with the transition to A level Mathematics

This session provides useful and practical advice on helping students make the immediate transfer to A level Mathematics as well as how to help weaker students throughout their study of C1 and C2.

Full day attendance: £50
Half day attendance: £30
All bookings include lunch

Only a few places remaining!
For a booking form contact: c.taylor@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Bishop Challoner Catholic College
Teaching Schools Overview

Giles Bird OBE, Interim Deputy Lead Associate, Central Region, NCSL

Birmingham has proved to be especially successful by getting five Teaching Schools designated in the very first cohort of this new initiative. The National College has been given the responsibility by the Department for Education to identify and support Teaching Schools as the new leaders of school improvement in the educational landscape. As a consequence, a new self-improving school system, is planned to be established.

The Birmingham Five include two secondary converter academies (Bartley Green and The Arthur Terry), a primary school (Greet Primary), an independent (King Edward’s High school for Girls) and a faith school (Bishop Challoner Catholic College). I have been very impressed, in the context of my overview of developments across the West Midlands, by the tremendous imagination and energy shown by the Birmingham Teaching Schools since the programme’s inception.

Each Teaching School has been able to set things up and get them going in a way that the school, and its partners in the TS Alliance, think will make a best fit. This means in Birmingham that there has been a lot of individual and group learning which has increasingly been shared to support colleagues. On 19th March there is going to be held the first Birmingham Teaching Schools’ network event, specifically to share experiences of the successes and challenges of these new opportunities.

Although the concept behind a National Teaching Schools framework is very ambitious, and there are still important operational issues to be resolved, I feel every confidence that the experience of Bishop Challoner and its partner schools will have contributed greatly both to informing the national perspective and to the enrichment of learning for all students who attend the schools in Birmingham.

TOG Meetings, 13th March 2012, Bishop Challoner

Initial Teacher Training (8.30 am – 10.00 am)
Chair: Elaine Kenney, Swanshurst
1. Updates since last meeting, including School Direct
2. Audit outcomes
3. Next steps

Leadership Development/Succession Planning (10.00 am – 12.00 pm)
Chair: Gill Fox, Kings Norton Girls
1. Updates since last meeting
2. Presentation of Analysis from Leadership Development Audit
3. Teaching School Leadership Programme Development
   ●Leadership: Alliance needs (as identified in Audit)
   ●Leadership development offered by Alliance
   ●External Leadership development
   ●Charging Policy
   ●Quality Assurance
   ●Marketing
4. Any Other Business

School to School Support (12.30 pm – 2.00 pm)
Chair: Debbie James, Wheelers Lane
1. Updates since last meeting
2. Audit outcomes
3. Next steps including:
   ●Charging Policy
   ●School to School Peer Review
   ●Development of Lead Professionals

CPD/Research & Development (2.00 pm – 3.00 pm)
Chair: Maire Symons, Bishop Challoner Catholic College
1. Teaching School CPD Programme Development
   ●CPD Alliance needs (as identified in Audit)
   ●CPD offered by Alliance
   ●Costings
   ●Quality Assurance
   ●Marketing
2. Research & Development Programmes
   ●D Hargreaves: Maturity Model
   ●‘What makes good pedagogy?’
   ●Leading role of outstanding teachers in ITT
3. Any Other Business
Jo Flynn, Director West Midlands Science Learning Centre, explained that they would be running Primary and Secondary courses in June/July 2012 at Bishop Challoner that would meet the needs of Alliance schools. Details of these will be sent out soon. There was a lively debate when schools discussed their needs which included: GCSE Science and the new qualifications; Leadership of Science department; BTEC Science – developing the course; Impact model; Physics, Chemistry, KS3 Science for non-specialists; ‘A’ level and the new specifications; widening student horizons – experience of Science based professions; Primary – Science for non-specialists, practicals without facilities; STEM developments. Jo confirmed that there would be an ongoing relationship with the Alliance and that there would be more courses next year based on the needs of schools.

Leadership Development/Succession Planning (Gill Fox, Kings Norton Girls): HTI have been commissioned to carry out a full audit on Leadership Development. This will be analysed and the findings presented by Anita Wheeler (Assistant Director, Programmes, HTI) at the Leadership Development TOG meeting on 13th March. This will allow a Leadership Development Programme to be produced that meets the needs of the Alliance. It was emphasised that there is a great need in the Alliance to build leadership capacity, including developing quality middle leaders for SLT role and leadership development in Primary schools. An application will be submitted to the NCSL in partnership with other TSAs, for a license to deliver courses at Levels 1, 2 and 3, including NPQH.

ITT (Elaine Kenney, Swanshurst): Elaine explained to the group how teaching school alliances have a big part to play in the area of ITT. An application has been submitted on behalf of the Alliance to School Direct for places: 5 Maths, 5 Physics and 5 MFL. It was highlighted that high quality recruitment and mentorship is very important. An ITT Audit is going out soon and once completed and analysed plans will be drawn up and discussions with HEIs will take place.

School to School Support (Debbie James, Wheelers Lane): An application has been submitted for £40,000 to help NLEs, LLEs and SLEs support schools in the Alliance. An audit will be sent out to Alliance schools which will identify needs and areas of expertise. Applications have been received for SLE designation and interviews have taken place. Designations will be confirmed by NCSL soon. The Alliance has made a decision to create ‘Professional Leaders of Education’ to incorporate NLEs, LLEs, ASTs, SLEs and Lead Professionals. Various types of support will be offered, including secondment. Support staff will also be included in this eg attendance officers, examination officers. The Alliance needs to plan how to get primary teachers interested in making SLE applications in the next round.

CPD/Research & Development (Maire Symons, Bishop Challoner): ITP and OTP continue to be offered. Bishop Challoner will offer Maths courses at every level from 2 years to 19 years and beyond, as part of Lead School designation. CPD will be provided for Lead Professionals and SLEs. Need for literacy training identified and also Maths/English for Primary staff. CPD programme will be developed when Audit has identified needs and areas of expertise. Analysis from all the Audits will feed into the TSA Prospectus for 2012/2013. This will be available on the TSA website which is currently being developed.

Executive Board Meetings

The next meeting of the Teaching School Alliance Executive Board will take place on:

**Thursday, 22nd March 2012, 9.30 am—11.30 am at Bishop Challoner Catholic College**

This will include a session led by Dr Vincent Stroud, Regional Lead (West Midlands), TDA, to discuss ‘The Changing Landscape of ITT’

**Dates of next meetings:**

- Thursday, 3rd May 2012
- Friday, 29th June 2012
Latest News!

Our application for NLE/SLE Deployment Funding has been successful! This funding is to support schools within the Alliance under precise criteria in the areas of Primary Mathematics and Primary/Secondary Leadership. Debbie James is leading on this and will give more information at the next TOG meeting. Debbie and Maire have met with Marilyn Mottram from Birmingham LA to discuss how the TSA can support schools in the South quarter of the City and further afield.

Thank you to all Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers who have supported the SLE and Lead Professional application process. The Teaching School has appointed 10 SLEs and 5 Lead Professionals. These are S Abdo (Bishop Challoner), G Binnie (Bordesley Green Girls), E Bridgett (Kings Norton Girls), R Hanvey (Swanshurst), R Howat (Kings Heath Boys), J Hill (Holyhead), A Inglis (Turves Green Boys), Z Record (Bordesley Green Girls), C Snaith (Wheelers Lane), M Sutton (Swanshurst), S Bunn (Wheelers Lane), A Monga (Baverstock), L Tal lent (Turves Green Boys), J Thom (St Edmund Campion), S Tressider (St Augustine’s).

We have been successful in our application to School Direct for 15 places – 5 Maths, 5 Physics, 5 MFL – in partnership with the King Edwards Consortium and Birmingham University. Full details of our programme will be discussed at the next TOG meeting and fed back to the Executive Board on 22nd March.

The Teaching School has been successful in its application to take part in a national research programme with the Institute of Education in London on ‘What makes great pedagogy?’. Fifteen schools within the Alliance have expressed interest in being part of this research project. Brendan McGurran, representing the TSA, is going to London for a preliminary meeting on 19th April to be given more information about this national project. There will then be a meeting in May for the lead researcher in each of the fifteen schools.

Brendan has also been researching the ‘Maturity Model’ (David Hargreaves), and will report back at the next TOG meeting. The Maturity Model asks the question: What is involved in a teaching school strategic alliance attaining maturity? Hargreaves suggests that when fully developed a maturity model contains three dimensions:

- professional development
- partnership competence
- collaborative capital

Three TSA schools – Bishop Challoner, Holyhead and Small Heath - are working with the University of Birmingham on a research project ‘The leading role of outstanding teachers in ITT’. Information on the findings and results of this programme will be disseminated to all Alliance schools at the end of the Summer Term. There will also be a twilight session for all interested ITT mentors.