



Advanced Learning Alliance

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Empowering Women in Education Programme

The aim of the programme is to empower, inspire and connect women in schools who would like to further their professional development and reflect on their current practice. All women teachers are welcome to apply, as the issues addressed are relevant to all levels of management within a school.

Please see the website (www.advancedlearningalliance.co.uk) for more details.

Updates

ITT

- We currently have 14 trainees in 7 of our schools.
- UCAS is open and we are receiving applications. We are actively taking applications and are looking to process them swiftly.

Research and Development

- This year we have 9 teachers from Dame Alice Owen's, Yavneh College and Chancellor's School doing projects ranging from Mentoring GCSE students to making debating more inclusive.

School to school support

- A bid has been submitted with the Alban Alliance and another one with Herts and Bucks Alliance. The outcome should be known in January.
- Watford Boys are advising on a new Saracens free school. WBSG is providing extensive support to the new Saracens High School in the form of: writing the Education Brief as part of the submission to the DfE; providing support and guidance to the trustees as they establish the school; involvement in the appointment of the Principal; the provision of support at the opening Parents Evening; provision of ongoing support and induction for the Principal designate.

Leadership

- The Senior Leadership Programme is currently underway with 14 participants.
- The Middle Leader Programme will be running again in the Spring.

SLE

- If we are successful with the two bids mentioned above we will require more SLEs in STEM subjects. Please speak to your strategic partner if you are interested.

CPD

- Dame Alice Owen's are hosting the SACRE Holocaust Memorial Day on 24/1/18.
- The two Headteacher Triads are now underway.
- If you have a particular CPD requirement please let Sophie know.
- The Empowering Women in Education Programme is now on sale please see the website for further information.
- HoD and AHT and DHT forums – contact Linda if interested.

Vacancies within the Alliance schools

Please see the website for details of vacancies across the Alliance schools in teaching and non-teaching roles.

NQT tip of the week

Don't forget to check out the latest NQT tip of the week on the home page of our website.

Other news

China Delegation visits DAOS!

On Tuesday 3rd October a delegation of 25 Chinese teachers and dignitaries along with Hertfordshire University representatives and interpreter Mr William Wang visited Dame Alice Owen's School as part of a month-long visit to the UK. The visitors from Hubei Province in central China (famous for the Three Gorges Dam) are based for one month at the University of Hertfordshire and are looking at the Curriculum in England and the use of technology in education.



The group arrived at 9 o'clock and were greeted by Head Teacher Mrs Hannah Nemko and Director of the Advanced Learning Alliance, Mr Jonathan Robinson. During a subsequent tour of the school, they enjoyed, among other things, life drawing in an A Level Art lesson and experienced a food technology lesson in which eager Yr8 students explored the science behind heating food while preparing sizzling hamburgers.



Over refreshments, Hannah Nemko spoke to them about some of the challenges and opportunities facing schools today, from budget concerns, to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, to the many wonderful extracurricular opportunities open to students, such as recent school visits to Namibia, Tanzania and South America. That was followed by a presentation and discussion of curriculum design and timetabling by Dr Matthew James, who impressed the guests with a few carefully chosen phrases in perfect Mandarin.



Interesting comparisons were made between the education systems of China and the UK, but the liveliest discussion came when the issue of teachers' salaries and performance-related pay in England was raised.

After a tasty two-course Chinese buffet lunch in the school canteen, the delegates were treated to a presentation by a group of Yr9 Digital Leaders who have been training teachers in the best use of technology and apps in the classroom. That was followed by a teacher's perspective on the introduction of mobile devices by Physics teacher Mr Matt Pickering. Teachers were able to share their own Teacher-Led Development Work and show how a move towards evidence-based research is enhancing the quality of teaching and learning in schools across the country.



One of the highlights was when the Chinese party had a go at using Kahoot! and Quizlet Live, which are two interactive apps that are often used by students to recall vocabulary and show understanding of concepts in a fun and competitive way.

Before saying farewell, the group was treated to a hilarious performance by A Level Theatre Studies students under the direction of Head of Drama, Emma Govier, demonstrating the power of physical expression and great acting to transcend cultures and the inevitable language barrier.

Of the day, Headteacher, Hannah Nemko said, "It was an honour for the school to host the Chinese delegation and to share experiences about the management of secondary schools in general and the use of technology to support student progress in particular. We all have much to learn from each other and we were delighted to have been offered the opportunity to do so today."



By Mr Jonathan Robinson

If you would like to contact the Advanced Learning Alliance for general enquiries, please contact the Advanced Learning Alliance manager, Linda Linwood, on 01707-622879 (direct line) or linwoodl@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk