



Advanced Learning Alliance

Spring Bulletin 2017

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Programme

We recently concluded the 2016 SLP with one participant being promoted within a month of finishing the course.

Please look out for details of the next course which will start in September 2017. Please email linwoodl@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk if you are interested.

School Direct

Recruitment procedures have been changed again by NCTL this year because recruitment to teacher training courses is still falling in most subjects, but buoyant in others, notable PE and History. No notice was given of this until allocations opened to UCAS which meant that some PE candidates who we were already working in our schools, who would have found places had NCTL maintained last years' criteria have not been allocated places.

There is now a mixed economy whereby most subjects are open until they are filled nationally, but oversubscribed subjects are capped this takes no account of the fact that in our area schools struggle to recruit to all subjects. Representations have been made to NCTL by the School Direct Strategy group for Hertfordshire, which is chaired by Jane Hart, and by the Head of ITE at Hertfordshire University but to no avail.

UCAS opened at the end of October, the current situation is:

5 candidates have been accepted for September 2017 by Hertfordshire University, all processes complete.

2 candidates have been interviewed and observed in schools and await panel interview.

8 candidates are in the process of being seen by individual schools.

This puts us in a similar position to last year; however applications through UCAS and enquiries to the Lead School are down on last year.

Update on Women in Leadership Bid

Our bid with the Alban Alliance was successful and Claire Balkind is now doing the training to roll out the programme for us. Further details will follow in the spring.

Middle Leadership Programme

The 2017 Middle Leader Programme is now on sale please visit <http://www.advancedlearningalliance.co.uk/professional-learning/middle-leader-course-2017-12-2016> for more details

Initial Teacher Training

The calibre of candidates we are considering is very good, although the quality of other enquiries is far more variable.

Schools are asked to process any candidates they are interested in as quickly as practicable and to let Jane Hart know the names of anyone they are considering.

In addition to School Direct Recruitment, we have been training our current cohort across the alliance and it is good to see schools within the alliance have been arranging second placement swaps and working collaboratively. Jane Hart and Jonathan Robinson are both leading the school-led ITT provision with Hertfordshire University and the school delivery continues to have a positive impact on trainees and staff alike. We are currently half way through the school-led professional Studies training where trainees have some theoretical input on a range of whole school topics (e.g. Questioning, Assessment, Collaborative Learning, etc.) and observations and personal reflection. We also have a number of PGCE trainees and Bed students (in PE) across our schools working with several HEIs, including Hertfordshire, Goldsmiths', UEL, IoE, Middlesex and Brighton.

On Saturday 4th March Jonathan will be representing the Alliance at the annual recruitment fair in Stevenage. The fair focuses mainly on returning teachers. If you have any subject needs for September 2017, please let Jonathan know beforehand, so he can forward details of potential applicants to you.

Don't forget our weekly NQT teaching tips are published on the homepage of our website. Please direct your trainees to the site.

School to School Support

As a result of Watford Boys' school becoming a Teaching School and with changes in headship at several of our schools, school to school support work will now be led by Watford Boys' school. Please keep Maureen in the loop on any work you are undertaking. We hope more opportunities for SLE deployment will become available this year.

Leadership

We have been very pleased with the success of our Middle Leader Programme and we hope that the new round will be as successful. Please encourage teachers in their 3rd and 4th years of teaching to consider the programme if they have potential for leadership positions – especially in curriculum areas.

The Senior Leader Programme has also been incredibly successful this year and we are now in the process of revamping the programme for September 2017. We will be recruiting after the Easter holidays, so please have a think about who might be suited to the course. The programme is aimed particularly at senior middle leaders who may have not had the chance to be seconded to SLT and who aspire to be an Assistant Head in the near future.

We are grateful to Helen Wootton and Verity Lane for leading the TLDW programme again this year and the number of participants continues to be healthy across the alliance considering the programme has been running for several years now.

Specialist Leaders in Education

Watford Grammar School for Boys is delighted to have been awarded Teaching School status. Together with our Headteacher, Ian Cooksey, being designated as a National Leader of Education, this will enable the Advanced Learning Alliance to sustain its work in the 'Big Six'. Following this designation, there are some changes to the responsibilities within the 'Big Six'. Watford Grammar School for Boys will be responsible for School to School Support and for recruiting, and deploying, Specialist Leaders of Education.

I will be contacting schools to arrange a meeting with existing SLEs and to get expressions of interest from staff wishing to train as SLEs in Maths, Science, Humanities or Design Technology. Our Headteacher will contact other Heads in the Alliance for information regarding the current School-to-School Support work being undertaken by the Alliance schools.

We will also be asking the Alliance schools to let us know what particular strengths they can offer to support other schools. Using this information WBGs will produce a package promoting the strengths of the Alliance to schools that are in need of support, as well as to the various parties that broker such support.

If you have any questions about this information, please feel free to contact me directly: hillm@watfordboys.org

Maureen Hill

Assistant Head

Watford Grammar School for Boys

CPD and INSET

In December we ran a successful MFL training session on mobile apps in the classroom, led by the Twitter guru Joe Dale. Twenty teachers from across Hertfordshire, including alliance schools, attended. We plan to organise a follow up session on Google applications for language teaching in the summer term and we will advertise details in spring.

After our successful joint TSST bid with the Alban Alliance to run the MFL upskilling programme, we have had very positive feedback on the grammar and progression session run by Jonathan. On average five teachers are attending each session and the focus is always on building confidence in teaching the second language, or on supporting teachers who are teaching languages for the first time (having taught other subjects before).

The Physics Enhancement programme continues apace and feedback is consistently excellent. The new approach by Simon Poliakoff of offering modules at different levels to meet the needs of Physics teachers with different needs and requirements is paying off well and the programme will run for a third year with guaranteed funding in September.

We are pleased that Rickmansworth School will be overseeing CPD provision for the Alliance from January 2017 and Verity will be the main point of contact for this strand. We look forward to exciting inset opportunities in the near future. Please do let Verity and Linda know if you are offering inset or teach meets that can be advertised across the alliance and beyond.

Website

Please continue to check the website for vacancies across all our Alliance schools. If you have a vacancy you would like advertised please email Emma on advancedlearning@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk with the details.



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

www.advancedlearningalliance.co.uk