



# The St Helens

## Teaching School Alliance

### Spring Newsletter

March 2018

## Alliance Schools' News

Meet the newest member of our team...a very warm welcome to **Paula Foster**, TSA administrator who started last term. Paula will be working alongside Sarah Makin, Senior administrator, Paula is a fantastic addition to the TSA team.

**Welcome to the latest alliance schools to join the St Helens TSA:**

Leigh St Thomas (Wigan), St Marie's Standish (Wigan), Ashurst Primary (St Helens), St Ambrose (Liverpool), Woodfield Primary (Wigan), Sutton Oak (St Helens), Allanson Street (St Helens) and Northwood CPS (Knowsley).

**Nutgrove Methodist Community Primary School** recently achieved **Outstanding in the Primary Languages Development Award**. The award enables primary schools to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their provision of languages. The award is run by Primary Languages Network and schools can achieve one of three levels: Establishing Enhancing and Outstanding.

Schools are assessed on the following criteria:

School Improvement Planning  
Subject Coordination  
Staff training and CPD  
Teaching and learning of languages  
Tracking and assessment  
Links abroad  
Transition to KS3



Ian Rimmer, Head teacher said: *"We are absolutely delighted with the result."*

**Nutgrove Methodist Community Primary School** have been lucky enough to have a new library, which was opened on the 12th January 2018. This library was made possible by some funding from the PTFA for furniture and books and our very creative Caretaker, Mr. Terry. We also had Alan Gibbons, an author who has written many books for all ages and has also won the Blue Peter prize, to attend the opening and spent the day with the school.



**Linda Smith, Behaviour and Safety SLE- 3 Saints Academy Trust Wellbeing Director**, won an award from young carers Trust for the excellent awareness raising they do as a school (and across the 3 Saints Academy Trust). What a fantastic accolade for the school! Well done to Linda Smith and the rest of the team for all of their hard work.

**Plantation Primary School - achieved the LCQM (Liverpool Counts Quality Mark) Silver Award**. The assessors reported that: across the school there is a consistent approach in every classroom, each room has a Maths Meeting Wall. Teachers and children use the walls to support basic skills during the day.

Strengths included:

- The Maths Champion has worked hard to promote the LCQM across the school and actioned many things.
- Promoting Maths outside the classroom is a strength; the Maths Club has enhanced enjoyment and engagement of children.
- All the additional initiatives that have taken place such as Tycoon, The Fiver Challenge, Magical Maths and Mathletics have supported raising the profile of home/school links with Maths.

**Queen's Park URC Primary School** have received the **Basic Skills Award and Artsmark Gold**. They have also been lucky enough to secure funding from Erasmus to send 20 members of staff to Rouen in France to become more immersed in language through visiting schools and taking part in workshops. A very exciting and worthwhile opportunity- well done Queens Park!

**St Mary and St Thomas' CE Primary School** have recently been awarded the **UNICEF Rights Respecting School award** (bronze level). The award recognises the work they do to promote pupils' rights, the strong culture of acceptance of difference and diversity and the safe and inspiring learning environment that exists in the school.

**St Mary and St Thomas' CE primary school** was listed as a top 20 school across Merseyside for prospective parents.

A pupil from **St Mary and St Thomas' CE Primary school** has been earned a place at Bluecoat school for September 2018- this is one of the top 20 school in the country. A wonderful achievement.

**The best performing primary schools in the St Helens borough have been revealed after this year's key stage two SATs results have been released.**

Figures for schools in St Helens, which have been published by the Department for Education (DfE), show that many are performing above the national average of pupils meeting the expected standard of results- which is 61 per cent.

The average for St Helens, however, is three per cent lower at 58 per cent.

SATs tests are taken by year six pupils in their final year of primary school and measure children's reading, writing and maths skills.

**St Aidan's CE Primary School in Billinge** topped the charts in the borough with **87 per cent** of its pupils achieving the expected standard closely followed by **St Mary and St Thomas' CE Primary School, St Helens**, scoring **86 per cent**.

Head teacher of St Aidan's, Melanie Ravenscroft, said: "Our governors are delighted and want to thank all the staff and children for their hard work.

"The school prides itself on making sure all children make excellent progress throughout their time while being nurtured and cared for.

**Well done to all alliance schools that made the 'Top 10' Best Performing Primary Schools in St Helens:**

1. **St Aidan's CE Primary School, Billinge**- 87 per cent met expected standard
- 2 **St Mary and St Thomas' CE Primary School (part of the 3 Saints Academy Trust)**, St Helens- 86 per cent met expected standard
- 4 **Ashurst Primary School, St Helens**- 83 per cent met expected standard
- 7 **St Ann's Church of England Primary School (part of the 3 Saints Academy Trust)**, Prescot- 72 per cent met expected standard
9. **Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School**- 71 per cent met expected standard

League tables published by the DfE also rank schools by the percentage of children reaching the expected standard in the individual areas of reading, writing and maths with schools in Wigan borough slightly higher than the average in all three categories.

**The following alliance schools also featured in the Top 10 schools across Merseyside:**

- St Mary and St Thomas' CofE Primary School, (St Helens)
- St Aidan's CofE Primary School, Billinge (St Helens)
- Ashurst Primary School, (St Helens)
- Northwood Community Primary School, Kirkby (Knowsley)
- St Gerard's Catholic Primary School, Widnes (Halton)

**Newfold CPS - achieved the NAACE ICT Mark.** Following an assessment visit from NAACE (National Association of Advisors for Computers in Education) in December, Newfold were able to demonstrate substantial and ongoing investment in computing technology.



**Rainford High School** - Rainford High received a visit from Conor McGinn MP who met with talented students who recently won a national award in a global health and development competition.



Four students in Year 11 were crowned winners of the silver category in the Youth Grand Challenges Competition for their invention that persuades children in developing countries to wash their hands.

Branded 'Soap & Suds', pupils came up with the idea of a bar of soap with a game inside it, to help stop the spread of infectious

For more information on any of the projects referred to in this newsletter contact:

**Lisa Bradshaw- Director of the St Helens TSA:**  
[lisa.bradshaw@three-saints.org.uk](mailto:lisa.bradshaw@three-saints.org.uk) | 07446 463250

**Sarah Makin- Senior TSA Administrator:**  
[sarah.makin@three-saints.org.uk](mailto:sarah.makin@three-saints.org.uk) | 07446 446418

**Paula Foster - TSA Administrator:**  
[paula.foster@three-saints.org.uk](mailto:paula.foster@three-saints.org.uk)

**Alternatively visit the St Helens TSA website:**  
[www.sthelensteachingschools.co.uk](http://www.sthelensteachingschools.co.uk)  
for full programme details.

Follow us on twitter- [@SthelensTSA](https://twitter.com/SthelensTSA)

## NQT Training with St Helens TSA - committed to ongoing excellence!

As a TSA we offer a Primary Programme with EYFS sessions built in. SLEs, school leaders and experts in their field deliver this highly effective programme.

The Primary programme has continued to be a high quality programme with 39 teachers involved this year with continually positive feedback on all sessions offered.

The next session will be: The Teaching of Science - **Thursday 15th March 2018**

Find the full NQT programme 2017-18 here: <http://bit.ly/2pnGweg>

We are now half way through the **RQT programme**: Developing Middle Leadership— Learning to Lead all NQTs taking part in our programme are offered this as a route into leadership. Teachers that have been trained via the St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary Alliance schools direct group automatically received this development programme.

We have recruited 18 RQTs that are looking at 'Taking the Lead' in delivering a whole school initiative. Through the programme they are receiving support in the development of their leadership role whilst having a whole school impact!

RQT Programme: <http://bit.ly/2q5GS8k>



### Secondary NQT Maths Programme

A key aim of this work group is to support teachers new to the profession to ensure they are providing a strong curriculum, teaching and professional development practices that can be shared amongst the departments they are working in and across the hub region. This work group has run successfully for the past two years, we intend to review and evaluate to ensure we are continuing to meet the needs of all Maths secondary NQTs across the patch.

We have recruited 18 NQTs for this year.

For full details look here: <http://bit.ly/2ArZyCy>

## School Direct - Becoming a teacher with St Helens TSA

To date, St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary Alliance will have trained 52 Primary trainees resulting in 100% employment rate with a 50% early deployment rate over the past few years. The success of the programme is largely due to the Strategic Partner Head Teachers and talented staff within their schools that give up a vast amount of their time to deliver training and mentor trainees. We have extremely talented SLEs that also support the programme.

In 2017-18 we have 15 trainees that are now in the second term of the programme. This term they look forward to transferring and building on their skills in their away placement schools.

**UCAS opened on 20th October for 2018-19: Apply directly through UCAS online:**

<https://www.ucas.com/school-direct-salaried-programmes-england>

**Course information: St Mary and St Thomas' CE Primary School- 13N. We had 60 places available to start in September 2018**

**Why choose St Mary and St Thomas' CE Primary school?**

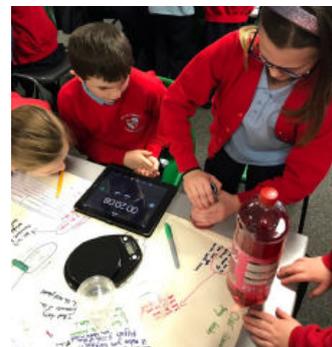
We are the lead school for **St Helens TSA and NW Maths Hub 3**



We offer a unique Primary General Teacher training programme the lead alliance school supported by our Strategic Partner schools to deliver our high quality programme. Since becoming a Teaching School in April 2013 we have trained 52 students successfully completing the course with 100% employment rate. The programme has been quality assured by a number of external agencies as a result the alliance provision has been graded as 'Outstanding'. The

TSA is above the National norm for School Direct provision and are classed as a high flying alliance in terms of numbers of applications and successful recruitment as reported by NCTL.

School Direct is a one year teacher training programme for graduates. Schools work in collaboration with Liverpool Hope University to provide high quality training. Training with the St Helens TSA means you become a staff member from day one while receiving academic and University support. Student feedback is key to ensuring quality and is paramount to ensuring the quality of our programme. Training is provided by Serving Head Teachers, Senior Leaders, SLEs/PDLs and other specialists in their field based at our Strategic Partner schools. We are committed to ongoing development of all trainees for at least 3 years. Trainees have access, free of charge, to our highly effective NQT and RQT programmes.



The School Direct Strategic Lead is Kathy Carman - St Mary and St Thomas' CE Primary Alliance: [kathy.carman@three-saints.org.uk](mailto:kathy.carman@three-saints.org.uk) | <https://www.facebook.com/staschooldirect>

### Anglican Church School Studies Certificate

The St Helens TSA was asked to co-write a brand new award to be trialled and used with school direct (and in the future ITT trainees) in association with Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool Dioceses, Expert Practitioners and RE SLEs. The first draft has been written and delivered to this year's School Direct trainees.

100% of respondents felt the programme improved their understanding of church schools, the tutor was knowledgeable on the subject and good at explaining the subject matter.

92% of respondents felt the presentation of material was well paced and 100% of respondents felt that the tutor prepared well for the class and that the tutor was willing to answer questions.

**Testimonials from trainees:**

*A great opportunity to be able to gain a certificate in church school studies. This will be really useful when applying to a Church school for my 1<sup>st</sup> teaching post.*

*All tutors were very knowledgeable and the session was interactive.*

*Discussion, practical activities, examples of resources and example of collective worship- I really enjoyed the practical activity during concept, creativity and challenge session. Lots of different lesson ideas embedded throughout the day - really useful.*

# Continued Professional Development

## Developing Professional Learning Communities

### Primary English Subject Leader meetings:

Day 3 has been postponed due to the Celebration of English Conference which will replace this meeting.

### Primary Maths Subject Leader meetings:

Friday 22nd June 2018 9.00am – 3.30pm

Focus:

- Mathematical updates and current thinking.

### Primary Science Subject Leader meetings:

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 9.00-3.00pm at World of Glass Chalon Way E, Saint Helens WA10 1BX

Focus includes:

- Moderation and standardisation;
- Raising the profile of science in your school;
- Assessment opportunities;
- Selecting and managing resources including ICT.

### Secondary Maths Heads of Department Meetings:

This is an opportunity for all **Heads of departments** to come together to review and share approaches to current national and local initiatives.

**St Helens/Knowsley/Sefton and surrounding LAs:** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 1.30-3.30pm Rainhill High School, Warrington Rd, Rainhill, Prescott L35 6NY

**Wigan/Bolton/Warrington and surrounding LAs:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018, 1.30-3.30pm, Byrchall CPD Centre, Warrington Rd, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan WN4 9PQ

**Wirral and surrounding LAs:** Tuesday 3rd July 2018, 1.30-3.30pm, Prenton High School for Girls, Birkenhead CH42 6RS

Details: <http://bit.ly/2ArYy1i>

### RE Faith Carousel

St Ann's CE are hosting termly Faith carousel meetings which involves members of different faith communities talking about their religion. Staff will have time to ask them questions too. An excellent CPD opportunity to enhance your subject knowledge for all key stages and it is all free! Bring all your staff! **For further information please contact:**

[caren.greaves0@gmail.com](mailto:caren.greaves0@gmail.com)

To book places on any event contact:

[sarah.makin@three-saints.org.uk](mailto:sarah.makin@three-saints.org.uk) | 07446 446418  
[paula.foster@three-saints.org.uk](mailto:paula.foster@three-saints.org.uk)

## St Helens TSA Courses and Events Spring / Summer 2018

### Maths

**Mathematics lesson design and structure:** next session Y4 - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March

**Achieving Greater Depth in a Mastery Context:**

Greater Depth in KS2: 7th June 2018, 9.00-3.30pm @ Nutgrove Primary School

**Differentiation Within a Mastery Context:**

Differentiation Within a Mastery Curriculum: KS1 - Tuesday 20th March, 9.00-3.30pm @ Nutgrove Primary School

For full details of all our maths CPD visit:

<http://bit.ly/2cWgFBV>

### EYFS Leadership Network

The St Helens TSA are pleased to announce the Bespoke EYFS Leadership network; led by Hayley Wynne (EY2P). As requested, we have put together termly meetings for all EYFS practitioners and leads.

The summer term 2018 meeting will be held on: Tuesday 15th May 2018 – 1pm to 4pm; venue: Peter Street Centre



### Celebration of English Conference

We are delighted to announce the St Helens TSA will be hosting our **1<sup>st</sup> Celebration of English Conference on: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 held at Anfield Football Stadium, Liverpool.** Guest Speakers include: Tony Walsh (Poet and Public Speaker), Levi Tafari (Poet), Steve Antony (Author and Illustrator), Pam Smy (Author and Lecturer), Martin Galway (English Consultant), Mat Tobin (Lecturer), Shareen Mayers (English Consultant and Author), Dawn Robertson (English Consultant and Author) and Maddy Barnes (English Consultant and Author). Stalls and much, much more...

**The cost of the full days conference is: £60** including refreshments, light lunch and all materials (including goody bag). We have **200 places** which will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

To reserve a place at the conference please contact:

[sarah.makin@three-saints.org.uk](mailto:sarah.makin@three-saints.org.uk) | 07446 446418  
[paula.foster@three-saints.org.uk](mailto:paula.foster@three-saints.org.uk)

# Leadership and Talent Management

## NLEs (National Leaders in Education)

We currently have 2 NLEs working with the St Helens TSA.

## LLE (Local Leaders in Education)

We now have 7 'active' primary LLEs working with the StHelens TSA.

## Accredited Leadership Programmes:

The St Helens TSA is an affiliate hub partner with Best Practice Network (OLP). We have delivered NPQSL (National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership) and NPQML (National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership) for 3 years.

## 2017-18 intakes:

### Spring/Summer Terms

**NPQML:** we are currently training 15 candidates from primary and secondary phases across the NW.

Day 3- 26th June 2018 at Langtree Park, St Helens.

**NPQSL:** we are currently training- 13 candidates.

Day 3- Friday 29th June 2018 at DW Stadium, Wigan.

## Best Practice Network:

The licensee that we work with are accepting applications now.

Candidates can apply at the following links for future rounds:

**NPQML:** <http://outstandingleaders.org/qualifications/npqml>

**NPQSL:** <http://outstandingleaders.org/qualifications/npqsl>

**You will need to indicate that you wish to attend the face-to-face sessions with the St Helens TSA.**

This programme costs £950 which is paid directly to Best Practice Network. Best Practice Network (BPN) and the Outstanding Leaders Partnership (OLP) will be able to offer scholarships to candidates from 12 opportunity areas and the category 5 and 6 local authority districts. To see if candidates from your schools will be eligible for scholarships, please visit their website.

**NPQH-** For further information visit [www.bestpracticenetwork.co.uk](http://www.bestpracticenetwork.co.uk) Application rounds are now open for a September 2018 start.

**Leadership Article** - written by **Kirsty Haw, CEO 3 Saints Academy Trust** for Liam Donnison, managing director of Best Practice Network. Kirsty Haw's reflections form part of the new NPQEL programme, developed and delivered by Outstanding Leaders Partnership in partnership with Best Practice Network. More information at [www.outstandingleaders.org/qualifications/npqel](http://www.outstandingleaders.org/qualifications/npqel)



**Journey towards a new curriculum** - What was it about the experience of rolling out a new approach to maths teaching as part of a knowledge-rich curriculum that made it a success?

Kirsty shared her perspectives for the National Professional Qualification for Executive Leadership (NPQEL), a new programme for aspiring and serving executive heads and CEOs leading across several schools, now being delivered by Outstanding Leaders Partnership.

- Be the chief advocate**
- Resource professional development**
- Consult widely**
- Get parents involved**
- Ensure continuity**

The full report is due to be published in this terms BPN magazine and on the website.

There is still time to register for the **NPQEL course** starting this spring.

The new **NPQ for Executive Leadership** is aimed at the growing number of head teachers who are taking on responsibility for more than one school.

The fully blended learning approach with HEI backed content (meaning that participants can go on to achieve an MBA from Liverpool Hope University), combined with executive coaching and enrichment activity from within and outside the education sector, make this an exciting and valuable opportunity for executive leaders.

Candidates working in Opportunity Areas or Category 5 and 6 LA will be eligible for full course funding.

BPN will be accepting applications until the **end of March**.

For further information contact BPN on 0117 9209 424 or email [cpd@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk](mailto:cpd@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk)



## Capita (CER) and St Helens Teaching Schools Alliance Partnership

CER Liverpool are proud to be working in partnership with the St. Helens Teaching School Alliance and its members. 13 alliance schools have used CER for a mixture of Teacher, TA & Support staff supply days with 809 days booked so far, which equates to almost £7,000 in financial rebate to participating schools within the partnership.

For schools

- Free CPD courses for staff
- CER Reward Scheme - financial annual rebates
- Conferences and events sponsorship
- Reduced temp to perm terms of 10 weeks
- Set daily supply rates of £135 per day (NQT), £148 (FQT), £85 (TA)

For candidates (School Direct, NQTs, Teachers and other school based staff)

- NQT support in finding their desired long term position within our client schools
- CV writing hints & tips
- Interview techniques and support
- Paid supply work with benefits



# CER

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## Leadership Conferences and Briefings - Celebrating leadership at all levels

In the previous two terms sessions have included:

**Implications for teaching English** (Reading and Writing) post 2017 tests and recent updates on KS1/2 provision- delivered by Maddy Barnes.

**Implications for teaching Mathematics** post 2017 tests and recent updates on a Mastery approach- delivered by Tara Loughran.

**Helping schools make sense of their data.** James Pembroke equipped leaders with the knowledge, skills and systems required to make the best use of school data and to take their schools to the next level.

**An overview of the ATSA and what the offer would look like for alliance schools** - linked to Sports development, outstanding sports partnership practice and use of sports premium- delivered by Mark Grogan.

**HMI Mathematics briefing delivered by Jane Jones HMI** Maths lead. Focus of the session was: The teaching for mastery approach, expectations, how HMI/OFSTED are using this knowledge/approach to inform inspections. Progress and lessons learnt from previous inspections. What is working well in schools based on recent visits?

**Effective Marking and Feedback project**- in response to the Teacher workload report in association with Tim Oats delivered by Phil Edge- HT lead.

One of the most popular sessions was the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** briefing for Headteachers & Senior Leads delving into changes in legislation and striving way forward with Data Protection delivered by Browne Jacobson. The TSA were pro active in arranging this briefing in response to *“Schools should be actively taking steps to ensure compliance with the requirements of the GDPR by next May. The GDPR imposes new requirements (including the appointment of a Data Protection Officer (DPO) and notification of personal data breaches) and provides new rights for individuals. All schools will be subject to the requirements of the GDPR”*.



For further support in implementation please see **preparing for the GDPR- 12 steps:** <https://goo.gl/2XG9hR>

**All sessions were extremely well attended with overwhelming positive feedback by HTs and Senior leads. St Helens TSA members receive all leadership briefings FREE of Charge.**

**Summer term briefings (and beyond) will include:**

**Safeguarding update**- providing leaders with key updates ensuring your school is compliant. Date and venue TBC.

**Head Teachers annual conference**- Save the date! The event will take place on: **Thursday 4th October 2018 at Haydock Park Race Course, St Helens, Merseyside.**

Theme: **Ensuring schools have a rich and deep curriculum that meets the needs of all learners.** The importance of a broad, balanced curriculum from a range of professional perspectives. As an alliance we feel this is crucial in supporting schools to continue to drive for excellence. With this in mind, we have secured the following speakers- **Sir David Carter, Laura McInerney and Amanda Spielman.** Further information will be available in the summer term.

## Bespoke Leadership Collaboration Package:

**St Helens TSA in association with ECM Leadership** has created a bespoke offer for all members. The 3 year programme includes: Teaching and learning health checks including a full written report, 3 leadership partner days per year to move forward bespoke needs of the school, 6 leadership training sessions for 2 delegates (HT/DHT/AHT or SLT member) to include: SIP writing, SES/SEF writing/analysis of the NEW RAISE, monitoring and evaluation including cross school moderation, safeguarding and appraisal and Governor training sessions for 2 Governors syncing with leadership training. Next year we will be offering additional leadership training opportunities based on current feedback. Training sessions have been valued by all schools with 100% schools highly recommending this element of the programme. **This programme will change significantly next year in response to school needs.** Further details to follow... If you are interested in being part of this network please contact: [lisa.bradshaw@three-saints.org.uk](mailto:lisa.bradshaw@three-saints.org.uk)

## Pupil premium Reviewers:

16 Head teachers from the St Helens TSA are trained to carry out Pupil Premium reviews.

To commission this supportive review please contact Lisa Bradshaw.

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## SLEs - Specialist Leaders in Education

**We now have 52 SLEs (Primary, Secondary and Special phases) and 4 PDLs (Professional Development Leads- Maths).**

We are now an accredited teaching school provider able to deliver the **SLE Mandatory Training**. We have trained 25 new SLEs from 3 teaching school alliances. If you would like to find out more, please contact Lisa Bradshaw.

**The areas covered currently by are SLEs are:** Maths (primary and secondary), English (primary and secondary), Computing (including digital literacy and media), Science (primary and secondary), Early years, NQTs/ITT, Leadership of the curriculum, attendance, SEND, Behaviour and safety, attendance and welfare, School Business Management, closing the gap (diminishing differences), catering for the higher attainers (previously G+T), MFL, RE and Physical Education.

Bespoke offers can be created in for single or cluster school events. Please contact Lisa Bradshaw for further details.

**SLE development opportunities-** we are committed to the ongoing development of SLEs that work on behalf of our alliance. The SLEs have 'team away days' led by national and international experts in their field. This supports them to engage in up to date current thinking and supports them in developing and deploying these strategies when supporting schools and delivering professional development.

**The St Helens TSA will be recruiting again in summer 2018, date TBC. We will be recruiting Primary/Secondary and Post 16 Maths, Primary and Secondary Science and Primary English specialists in this next round- please contact Lisa Bradshaw if you are interested.**

**Congratulations to all SLEs that have gained promotion since taking up the role:**

Michelle Slingsby - Headship  
Laura Rynn - Headship  
Beverley Benyon - Assistant Headship  
Donna Stretton - Headship  
Nicola Rutter - Headship  
Michael Bennett - Deputy Headship  
Cormac McCaughley - Head of school  
Diane Neilson - Assistant Headship  
Jonathan Leeming - Deputy Headship

For further details of all SLEs see the St Helens TSA website and view pen portraits.

**Emma Greenough, Computing SLE** has been invited to the DfE to examine what makes 'Outstanding' computing teaching. This pivotal strategy forum will feature updates from Department for Education, AQA and Computing at School alongside interactive case studies from schools excelling at digital skills and computing provision. We look forward to Emma sharing the findings with alliance schools next term!

**Congratulations to Linda Smith, Behaviour and Safety SLE** who was asked to speak at the Positive Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Conference at Halton Stadium, Widnes by Halton Mental Health Improvement Team/Halton Council to all Halton Schools addressing Headteachers, Governors, Senior Leaders in work we undertake to address mental health and emotional wellbeing and in particular Mindfulness in Schools

### Testimonials-

*I always find Linda's presentations interesting, I could listen to her all day she has such a wealth of knowledge and experience coupled with infinite amounts of passion and drive. Head teacher, Halton.*

*It's always a pleasure and a privilege to work with Linda and I am incredibly grateful to her and the Three Saints academy enabling Linda to attend Halton's mental health conference. The environment that has been created at St Mary and St Thomas is an inspiration to others of what can be achieved with passion, dedication and hard work. Linda and her team empower school staff to think outside the box in terms of how we can better support children's mental health and wellbeing. Thank you for setting the standard of which we all aspire to achieve and showing us that it is achievable. Kate Bazley- Halton Borough Council- Health Improvement Team.*

Linda is working towards a Schools Mental Health Award with the Carnegie Centre of Excellence at Leeds Beckett University and following submission of the schools' baseline audit and coaching interview it has been recommended to apply for the Gold Award. Linda has been invited to write brief papers on work we do as good practice for the Centre.

## School to School Support

We have supported a large number of primary and secondary schools in St Helens, Halton, Bolton, Knowsley, Wigan, Liverpool, Cheshire, Sefton and Warrington delivering in-house CPD sessions. These have included twilights and staff insets linked to Maths, English (reading, writing, SPAG), MFL, RE, computing, safeguarding, assessment, transition EYFS and science. We have a team of SLEs and other specialist practitioners that support our work.

Intensive support packages have also included moderation and standardisation of pupils work/planning and quality of provision. We have completed audits; support for teaching and learning including the use of questioning skills, effective deployment of adults and resources and use of ongoing assessments- tracking and target setting. We have a team of senior leaders including LLEs and NLEs that complete teaching and learning evaluations and pupil premium reviews.

**All offers are bespoke; please contact Lisa Bradshaw if you would like to create a bespoke offer to meet the needs of your school.**

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## Writing Moderation Tool kit...

In 2015-16 the St Helens TSA English subject leaders worked with Maddy Barnes on a Writing moderation and standardisation Toolkit.

The Writing tool kit will be used by schools to support moderation and standardisation. It will support teachers in all year groups to cross moderate (against national standards) with teacher guidance notes and will support pupils to identify features of a good piece of writing at all stages.

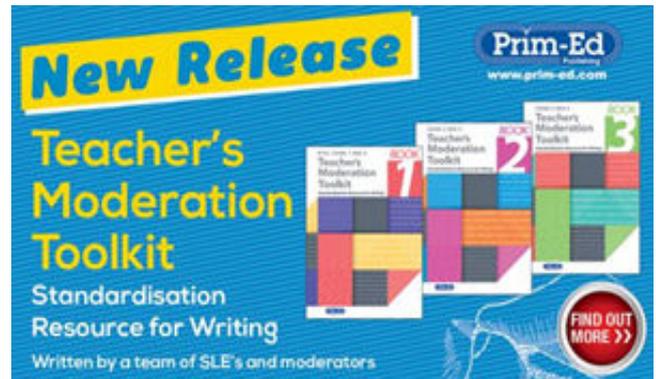
The resource has been quality assured by a team of English Advisors, English SLEs and Prim-Ed team publishing company to ensure it is of a high standard.

All St Helens TSA alliance schools and other schools that contributed to all three subject leader events in 2015-16 were acknowledged within the resource and given a free copy.

This is available for all schools to purchase via Prim-Ed: <http://www.prim-ed.com/webshop/English/Writing/Teachers-Moderation-Toolkit>

In 2017-18 we are focusing on producing a Reading Toolkit. This will be released in summer 2018.

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**Primary Headteachers, Members of SLT and Subject Leaders are invited to attend FREE PD\* with Gary Wilson**

### **Breaking Down the Barriers: Raising Boys' Achievement**

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2018/ 9:00am – 3:00pm**  
**DW Stadium, 15 Loire Dr, Wigan WN5 0UH**

The session, sponsored by **Oxford University Press** and organised by **The St Helens Teaching School Alliance**, offers the opportunity to attend a free full day of professional development.

Gary is a freelance consultant who talks about tracing under achievement from Pre School to 16 and what we can do to prevent it. He explains about how to interact with boys to optimise learning and overcoming barriers to achievement.

The day provides a opportunity to reflect on:

- Achievement - setting the context of boys' underachievement
- Breaking through the barriers to boys' achievement in literacy
- Effective strategies for breaking through other barriers to boys' achievement

Further details are here: <https://goo.gl/ubG99p>



## Research and Development

### **Nuffield Early Language programme- Proven to improve children's oral language skills and support reading comprehension.**

Teachers and teaching assistants have attended a 2-day training enabling them to deliver a new, evidence-based programme called the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI).



NELI is aimed at children in Reception who show weakness in their oral language skills and who are therefore at risk of experiencing difficulty with reading and learning. It is delivered over 20 weeks by TAs in groups of 4-5 children. Research shows that the programme increases the attainment of children in vocabulary, grammar and listening skills and improved language and children's confidence.

NELI-trained TAs hope to begin delivering the intervention very soon. Good luck to the NELI-trained TAs from alliance schools - St Basil's, St Alban's, St James, St Anne's, St Theresa's, Heygreen and St Silas' primary schools!



**The Craft of Writing project opportunity** - TSA schools are working with Arvon, the Royal Society for the Arts and EEF on a new project looking at creative writing. It is exploring how the opportunity for teachers to work with professional writers might change their understanding of being a writer, how they teach writing, and improve children's outcomes in writing. This is a rare opportunity for deep, sustained CPD in the teaching of writing that focuses on both writing standards and children's motivation and engagement as creative and effective writers.

The project is targeted at Yr 5 teachers and involves two significantly subsidised weekend residentials at Lumb Bank, (The Ted Hughes Arvon Centre near Hebden Bridge, W.Yorks), 3 free CPD days and some supply cover.

### **The following schools will be taking part in the project this year:**

St Mary's and St Thomas' CofE Primary School  
St Theresa's RC Primary School  
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School  
Queens Park CofE Primary School  
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

## Growth of the Teaching School Alliance

### **April 2013- Dec 2017**

We now have 50 settings working in collaboration. This includes 1 lead school, 11 strategic partners and 38 members from all phases.

### **Across a range of localities:**

Bolton- 1  
St Helens- 25  
Halton- 4  
Knowsley- 5  
Liverpool- 6  
Wigan- 8  
Manchester- 1

If you are interested in becoming a member of our successful team please contact:

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## External Review

Last term the St Helens TSA had an external review this was an extremely positive, successful and rigorous evaluation.

Key findings (comments) included:

Membership of the TSA means that sometimes access is available to something that one school alone couldn't afford. "Suddenly something becomes a possibility."

Some Headteachers felt that their ability to quickly implement school improvement in schools in difficulty had been largely due to support from the Alliance. "It's really moved our school on."

"I'm really glad I joined. It was the best decision I made when I became a Headteacher."

The sharing of best practice among members and partners was seen to be one of the benefits of the TSA. This seems to be linked to the fact that Headteachers involved with the TSA are seen to be "...high calibre but also have humility."

A number of interviewees felt that their staff had benefited from helping others through the Alliance, either as Specialist Leaders of Education, Local Leaders of Education, trainers, or less formally. "The TSA makes things happen and schools benefit."

There was a strong view that the Alliance is doing the right things for the right reasons, due to a clear vision promoted by Kirsty and Lisa. "The TSA isn't waiting to be told what to do, they are driving school improvement."

A number of Headteachers pointed to the usefulness of Lisa's annual visits. They have helped them to feel listened to and valued as part of the Alliance. "Lisa knows all the staff (in school) so she can talk confidently about them."

Headteachers could evidence positive effects of TSA membership with improved outcomes for children (supported by data), increased staff confidence, book scrutinies etc.

"St Helens TSA is just what a Teaching School should be about. It benefits the system, teaching and learning and children."

Network meetings are highly valued by teachers.

Headteacher meetings are felt to be purposeful and a high level of trust and mutual cooperation have been established.

Headteachers felt that being part of the Alliance raises their awareness of important issues on the national agenda. "Lisa is well networked so the Alliance is ahead of the game."

"They are always at the front line of any agendas or initiatives that come out"

"The St Helens TSA Board is very rigorous. The information I receive as a Board member is open and clear. There's a transparency about actions that have taken place. We can ask questions and challenge. There are positive, challenging discussions taking place. It feels like a very cohesive Board with a wide range of schools taking part."

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A huge thank you to all the St Helens Teaching School Alliance Strategic Partners and members, Headteachers, staff, children and Governors for their continued hard work and support. Together we will continue to deliver excellence everywhere!

**If you would like to be part of this forward thinking alliance or would like to know more, please contact:**

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