

CONNECTING EXCELLENCE

The Fortnightly Updates for Alpha Teaching School Hub



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Scan the QR Code
to view our
upcoming events



Keep up to date with our latest CPD programmes and additional curriculum hub offers for Spring 2022, via our **online brochure** - click **HERE** to view.



Mentor conference: Navigating the changing landscape



Wednesday 2 March 2022
4:30 - 6:00pm
Online - Zoom

A conference for primary and secondary ITT and ECT mentors

- Hear about how the Teaching School Hubs can support you
- Find out more about the Teaching School Hubs' new regional Subject Forums
- Listen to talks by keynote speakers

Keynote speakers:

Richard Kueh

- Dr Richard Kueh HMI is the Ofsted Subject Lead for RE.
- In his talk Richard will give background to the [Ofsted Research Review series](#) and will look at the big picture of subject-based curricula, what we can learn from the Research Review, and the role of mentors in developing subject knowledge for their trainees and ECTs.

Charlotte Raby

- Charlotte Raby is an Early Reading Expert and English Consultant and was a member of the DfE Expert Advisory Group on the new Leading Literacy NPQ.
- In her talk Charlotte will look at the [Reading Framework - Teaching the Foundations of Literacy](#) (DfE 2021) and how this guidance impacts primary and secondary teaching.

Register Now

Register for your place on this free online conference at the link below:

<https://bit.ly/3Au2lu8>

This event is hosted by:

Alpha Teaching School Hub

www.alphatsh.org

Chafford Hundred Teaching School Hub

www.harrischaffordteachingschoolhub.co.uk

Saffron Teaching School Hub

www.saffronteachingschoolhub.net

Early Career Framework, Guest Speakers

We were delighted to host the webinars from Ross McGill from the Teacher Toolkit for ECTs and NQTs + 1 and Dame Alison Peacock from the Chartered College of Teaching for mentors for our ECF earlier this term.

Leaders' Lounge

Do you always prioritise your staff and pupils? Of course you do! Have you thought about putting yourself at the forefront of training through our Leaders' Lounge? Run by a qualified NLP coach, this is a collaborative, solution focused programme designed to identify issues and use coaching and peer support to propose solutions. Our coach has considerable experience working at director level with major companies.

Annual membership is just £60. For further details click [HERE](#)

To register your interest click [HERE](#)



EAL Webinars

The EAL Hub are providing training as a series of late afternoon webinars for staff. Topics covered include the interaction between EAL and SEND and Stretching Advanced Bilinguals. Access to all sessions costs just £40 per person or £200 per school. This training is a great offer for new staff in schools or for those wanting a refresher.



Click [HERE](#) (see page 4) for more information or click [HERE](#) to register.

[Click on the event for more details](#)

Key Dates:

3 February 2022:

Lexden Springs
Speech, Language & Communication Needs

10 February 2022:

Lexden Springs
Cognition & Learning Needs

21 February 2022:

EAL within the
Primary Classroom

22 February 2022:

Lexden Springs
SEND Solutions
ADHD

22 February 2022:

Lexden Springs
Social, Emotional & Mental Health Needs

2 March:

Lexden Springs
Sensory & Physical Needs

8 March 2022:

Strengthening
Practical Biology

14 March 2022:

Strengthening
Practical Physics

14 March 2022:

EAL within the
Secondary Classroom

24 March 2022:

Strengthening
Practical Chemistry

SEND Training Offers



We are pleased to partner with our Specialist Leaders in SEND Lucy McNaughton and Marie Saunders who will be offering the following training:-

SEND Solutions - Do you want to find solutions and strategies to enhance SEND provision for your pupils? Get up-to-date advice and the latest strategies. At just £50 per person or £200 per school for access to all five remaining sessions, this course is focused on sharing good practice and promoting inclusive educational strategies. Click [HERE](#) (page 7) for more information or click [HERE](#) to register.

SENCO training - We asked the SENCo's in the Alpha Hub region what their training needs are for this year and have tailored this relevant and useful course to meet those needs. The full SENDCo training package costs £500, with individual sessions available at £150. For further details see our online brochure - click [HERE](#) (see page 8) or click [HERE](#) to register.

Talk and Tours - see which strategies actually work by visiting Lexden Springs, observing classroom practice and viewing resources. Our experts will provide advice and training to enable you to adapt these strategies in the mainstream classroom. The course offers four separate training opportunities covering Speech, Language and Communication Needs, Cognition and Learning Needs, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs and Sensory and Physical Needs. Cost is just £50 for the whole course. Click [HERE](#) (page 6) for more information or click [HERE](#) to register.

For full information about all the CPD courses on offer see our online brochure
click [HERE](#)

Local Lead Contact Details

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*Contact your Local
Lead for support
in matching your
school priorities to
relevant professional
development
opportunities.*



Strictly classroom: Why knowing your dance routine can help you maximise the contribution and impact of teaching assistants

The Profession
Author: Rob Webster, May 30, 2019
Chartered College of Teaching

The largest UK study of the impact of classroom support staff found that students who got the most TA support performed less well academically than those who received little or no support – regardless of whether they had underlying SEND or low prior attainment (Blatchford et al., 2011).

Students who require high-quality teaching the most receive the least (Webster, 2017). Separation from the classroom and the teacher is a key factor in the explanations of impact. TA–student interactions are less academically demanding and more task-driven. It is not that TAs are ineffective, but that school leaders and teachers do not always make the best decisions about how to deploy and work with TAs. The best partnerships are characterised by seamless, fluid movements around the classroom, and an almost-telepathic understanding of who needs to do what, with which children, and when. So, how can new teachers develop an effective ‘classroom choreography’ with TAs?

Know your dance routine

In partner dancing, one person usually takes the lead. This is you. Organise the classroom to ensure that TAs add value to your teaching.

Aim to deploy TAs in ways that free up opportunities for you to work with struggling students. For example, set up the classroom in such a way that on day one, the teacher works with one group, the TA with another, and the other groups complete tasks collaboratively or independently.

- On day two, rotate the adults and activities, and so on throughout the week. Or you could deploy the TA in a ‘triage’ role. Ensure that they know how to identify the pupils who are the most stuck and need your input to progress, and direct your attention to where your expertise is urgently needed.
- Give TAs a more visible role in teaching, scribing answers on the whiteboard or demonstrating equipment. This is useful for you as it allows you to maintain eye contact with the class.
- Support the TAs you work with to build or refine their interaction skills. Think of this as helping to build their repertoire of dance steps, and ensure the consistent execution of signature moves.

Ensure that TAs are equipped ahead of lessons with the concepts and facts being taught; the skills being applied, practised or extended; the intended learning outcomes; and the feedback you require to fuel teaching and learning. Why not try defining roles using a teacher agreement template, click [HERE](#)

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