

CONNECTING EXCELLENCE

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 and Summer 2022 via our **online brochure, click [HERE](#)**





EDT Easter Registration Deadlines

The Expression of Interest (EOI) window for the 'April Cohort' for schools not already registered with EDT through Alpha TSH, will open from Tuesday 1 March to Monday 16 May. The EOI should be completed by the Induction Tutor or main school contact and not participants.

- Every new participant received from the DfE portal from Monday 1 March to 16 May will be automatically set to the April cohort.
- If a participant uploaded to the DfE portal is a replacement or transfer mentor/ECT, please make EDT aware of this via emailing ukpartners@educationdevelopmenttrust.com and they will be able to add the participant to the correct cohort.
- EDT is currently reviewing how change and withdrawal notifications are managed with a view to improve this process and will update on this in due course.

ECTs & Mentors - Reminder

A polite reminder that Block 4 on the EDT platform will need to be completed by Friday 1 April.

Local Lead Contact Details

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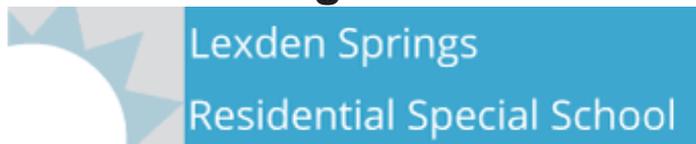
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Contact your Local Lead for support in matching your school priorities to relevant professional development opportunities.

SEND Training Offers



We are pleased to partner with our Specialist Leaders in SEND Lucy McNaughton and Marie Saunders who will be offering training during Spring and Summer Terms:-

SEND Solutions - Do you want to find solutions and strategies to enhance SEND provision for your students? At just £50 per person or £200 per school for access to all 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.

SENDCO Training - We asked the SENDCO'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. This Summer Term 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.

SEND Solutions

Lexden Springs

9 June 2022

Speech, Language & Communication Needs

15 June

Cognition & Learning Needs

21 June

Social, Emotional & Mental Health Needs

29 June

Sensory & Physical Needs

SENDCO Training

21 April

Person-centered Planning, Delivering, Tracking & Reviewing Interventions

7 June

Analysing & Evaluating In-school SEND Systems & Resourcing Provision for SEND

Talk & Tours

Lexden Springs

9 June

Speech, Language & Communication Needs

15 June

Cognition & Learning Needs

21 June

Social, Emotional & Mental Health Needs

29 June

Sensory and Physical Needs

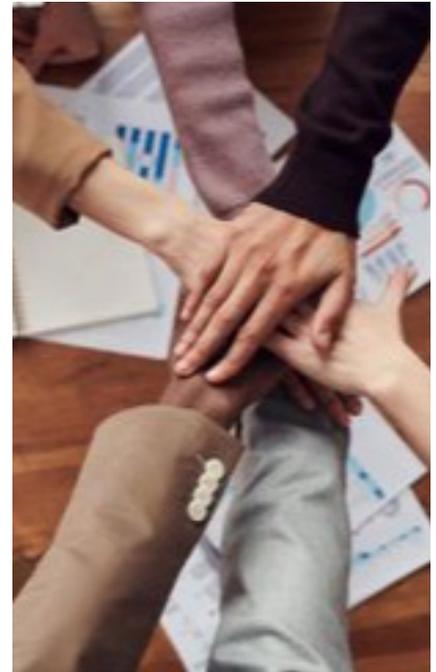


Alpha
Teaching School Hub

Leaders' Lounge

The Leaders' Lounge provides a virtual area where leaders can access support, advice and professional development. If you are looking for solutions to challenges and support within a positive environment, the Leaders' Lounge may be for you. 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](#)



NPQ Course available for September 2022 To register your interest click [HERE](#)

The reformed suite of NPQs is now available for teachers and leaders who want to develop their knowledge and skills in specialist areas of teaching practice. NPQs have been designed with teachers and leaders in mind using the latest evidence and can be completed flexibly around existing commitments.



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.

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



Adaptive Teaching & Differentiation

“Let me get this straight. We’re behind the rest of our class and we’re going to catch up to them by going slower than they are?”



Teacher expectations:

Low attaining student: Easier skills, basic knowledge and fluency.

Higher attaining student: More difficult knowledge, reasoning, problems and skills.

Problem: Attainment gap widens. Low attaining students fall further behind but higher attaining students move on and quickly.

Rethinking differentiation

- Challenge should be embedded not an add-on to a slide or an additional task for quick finishers.
- Plan for the top and scaffold
- Differentiation does not mean different tasks and lessons
- Section 5 of the Teaching Standards states that teachers must adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils. The key word here for me is ‘adapt’. Not ‘re-invent’ or ‘make-something-entirely-different’.

Adapting teaching in a responsive way, including by providing targeted support to pupils who are struggling, is likely to increase pupil success.

There is a common misconception that pupils have distinct and identifiable learning styles. This is not supported in evidence and attempting to tailor lessons to learning styles is unlikely to be beneficial.

Accommodating need or addressing need?

Need	Accommodating	Addressing
Difficulty writing extended answers	Allow student to make a voice recording	Provide scaffolds to allow student to develop the skill
Difficulty accessing tier 2 and 3 language in texts	Provide simpler texts or edited texts	Provide guided reading
Cannot play tennis	Allow student to practice a different sport	Model stages. Provide checklist for practice
Cannot answer Maths question	Give an easier question. Downscale the challenge	Model stages. Scaffold

Both are considered ‘differentiation’.

Are we encouraging teachers to adopt ineffective practices?

Relevant Research

Challenge & Adaptive Teaching

It is imperative that we are adapting our teaching for challenge. Targeted questions which are planned to challenge students at all levels could be a great way of extending their thinking skills. In his book “Teach Like a Champion”, author Doug Lemov discusses how Targeted Questioning encourages teachers to plan their questions in advance and to ask them at critical transition points in the lesson. It involves asking a series of carefully chosen, open-ended questions directed at a strategic sample of the class and executed in a short time period. Targeted questioning should take a minute or two at most once you become practiced at it.

Here are some ideas:-

- Work in departments or to develop good questions – keep a bank on a shared google doc.
- Don't forget to utilise textbooks or online resources – many times the hard work is already done and all you need to do is edit and insert the questions into your notes.
- Add an unpublished Content page within Canvas to keep track of questions year to year.
- Incorporate the questions into a slide deck such as Pear Deck or Nearpod. This gives the added benefit of getting responses from all students.
- Write the questions on index cards and place them where you will see them.
- Remember that attention spans are 10-20 minutes, if nothing else, stop and ask for questions at this point. Sometimes the students can come up with the best questions!

The Challenge Toolkit – Mike Gershon [Return to slide 1](#)

- The Challenge Toolkit provides 50 different activities to stretch and extend students' thinking. The activities are generic and can be used across Key Stages and in different subjects.

<https://mikegershon.com/resources/>

[www.edwarddebono.com](https://mikegershon.com/resources/)
Adapted from an idea by Edward De Bono
- a super author for all things thinking.

<https://mikegershon.com/free-resources/>

Advantaging the Disadvantaged

New Training Offer for the Summer Term

This training is for classroom teachers to explore inclusive classroom culture and strategies that focus on quality first teaching to ensure students are advantaged. The training course recognises that disadvantaged can take different forms, including travel time and English as Additional Language (EAL). Integration into school communities and immersive learning is key to ensuring students are 'advantaged'.

This programme will be launched in the summer term, further details coming soon. Fees will be set at a cost-based price. Click **HERE** to register your interest.

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