

Millais Teaching School Alliance

March 2012



We have been working with our Strategic Partners and Alliance Schools on initiatives that will help support not only the children in our own school, but all children in our local area. We have dedicated teams drawn from our Strategic Partners who are working to develop the areas of our remit. These teams each have a leader drawn from our Partners who will lead on elements of the Teaching School agenda which are:

- Initial Teacher Training (ITT)
- CPD
- School to school support
- Leadership Development
- Research and Development

We hold regular meetings for the Strategic Partner Head teachers or representatives and termly meetings for the Team Leaders. The Team Leaders themselves hold twice termly meetings with their own group in order to plan for the delivery of key initiatives that form the basis of our Action Plan.

Leadership Development

A key feature of how we will prepare future leaders in education is to put Teaching Schools at the heart of the delivery of the new Leadership Programme. Teaching Schools were invited to apply to lead on these National Programmes and to this end the Millais Teaching School Alliance bid to become Licensees for the new Leadership Levels 1 – 3, soon to replace the MLDP and the NPQH. Unfortunately, we were not successful in our bid but we hope that we can work alongside neighbouring providers of the Licence to support their Leadership work. It is our intention that our Leadership Development team will be concentrating on aspects of leadership in our locality to include a focus on Aspiring Leaders Programmes and on subject leaders' networks.



Mentoring new Teaching Schools

Millais School will be mentoring several schools who are seeking Teaching School status over the coming months.

St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill
Claverham Community College, Battle
St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill
The Bishop Bell C of E School, Eastbourne.

Peer to peer review

Millais School is involved in the pilot 'Peer to peer review' project this year whereby we, as a Teaching School, review the progress of one other Teaching School against a set of measures. We have been working with the National College to develop the overall approach to quality assurance and it is hoped that this will provide the key learning for continual improvement of the teaching schools model; this will be shared across the system. This should prove to be a very informative process and will take place in the summer term.

Team News

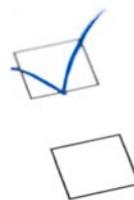
Research and Development

The Research and Development alliance team will be working on a range of projects to put action research at the heart of the work of the alliance. Our recent audit provided a wealth of information that the R & D team will be using in order to develop projects which will raise the importance of action research in the development of good practice.

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Audit of practice

We have recently carried out an audit of all of the schools in our alliance to gather data to help us shape our future plans for supporting all schools in our area. The audit has gathered information about a wide range of aspects relating to the Teaching School initiative including information about strengths of each of the alliance schools and areas needing additional support or development.

Team News

CPD

The agenda for our CPD group is to develop a programme of CPD and JPD (Joint Professional Development) opportunities that directly match the locality need. The programme will be advertised through ePD as alliance training and offered to all schools in the locality.

Beyond this planned programme, schools in the alliance are urged to continue to post any training opportunities on the ePD network as a means of sharing good practice and as a way of providing CPD for all our schools. Equally, all teachers should be reminded to check the ever growing number of training opportunities that arise through the ePD network.

In addition to this programme the CPD team are tasked with ensuring that all alliance schools recognise the value of the Quality Mark for CPD leadership and work towards acquiring this as an accreditation over the coming months.

ITT

The ITT group will be looking closely at the training and recruitment of ITT mentors and seeking ways to provide a more standardised experience of ITT through the sharing of good practice, to include shared induction events at the start of placements. Wider alliance projects include successfully bidding for School Direct PGCE places; we will be working with our HEI partners, the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, with our PGCE placement students in the primary phase and in physics, mathematics and MFL in the secondary phase. This is a new phase in ITT training and will give us the opportunity to be at the forefront of this new development. As an alliance we are also involved in a pilot project being run by the University of Brighton to run a new Physics with Maths PGCE course. These new physics with mathematics pilot courses will start from September 2012 with the aim of increasing the number of physics trainees to 1,150 in total across the country. At Millais we have also been involved in recruiting PGCE history students, in collaboration with the University of Sussex, enabling us to help the university offer a school centred process of recruitment which includes the candidates being interviewed by pupils.

School to School Support

Specialist Leaders in Education

One new initiative is the opportunity for teachers who are in leadership roles to apply to Teaching Schools to become Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs). An SLE will be tasked to work with colleagues at leadership level on aspects of their role. This term we have interviewed and recruited 8 SLEs who will be deployed across schools in our alliance; this will support and develop the leadership of Teaching and Learning and help to raise standards in our area. Millais, as the Teaching School, has a role in the brokering and deployment of the SLEs ensuring that their expertise matches local need. The School to School Support team will be looking at ways of brokering support at all levels between schools and on developing standardised protocols for the exchange and use of teachers in outreach work.



New members

Any school who would like support in any of the five key areas or is interested in collaborative work and wishes to join the Alliance should contact the Teaching School Director, Shirley Springer at Millais School email: shirley.springer@millais.org.uk