



*Burton Morewood CE Primary Academy
Teaching School Alliance*

Newsletter

March 2019

From the Chair

Thanks to all our Members for their support in what has been another successful year for our partnership. Whilst we never judge the performance of our schools purely in OFSTED terms we are delighted to report that at the time of writing all primary schools within SLRP have been judged to have an overall effectiveness grade of good or better. At a time when we are constantly being reminded that “the bar is rising” this is a fantastic achievement. Of course we are never complacent and recognise the need to be constantly seeking ways to improve still further. Since our last newsletter successful OFSTED visits have been made to Ambleside, Dent, Flookburgh, Goodly Dale, Grasmere, Hawkshead, Holme, Leven Valley, Lindale, St Cuthberts, St Martin and St Mary’s and Selside (although not formally SLRP members our colleague Sarah Coleman is the Executive HT). Congratulations to staff and children from all of those schools.

I’d also like to take the opportunity to thank our colleagues from the Local Authority who have supported us with school self-evaluation including helping us to quality assure the outcomes of our peer review process. Special thanks to Joanne, Marie and Fay and more recently to Calum Campbell who joined us in September 2018 (a personal thanks for meeting with the inspection team when my own school was recently visited).

As if to challenge our thinking further a new OFSTED framework is currently being consulted on with a view to being implemented from September 2019. Whilst never being one to get too excited at the prospect of a new OFSTED framework there are some glimmers of hope contained in the recent publication not least of which is the startling realisation that the quality of education is about more than just SAT results! Who’d have thought?

Finally it is with some sadness but with best wishes that we say farewell to our good colleague and friend Sue Woodburn who has decided to retire from Easter 2019. Over many years Sue has been a distinguished Head and leader within our partnership and there are many colleagues in our area and beyond who have benefitted from her wise (and frequently very funny) counsel. She had the vision, drive and energy to establish SLRP and we will all miss her. Having always had a wide range of interests to pursue her and Mark have more recently added the role of grandparents to their repertoire. Sue, on behalf of us all, thanks for all your work but most importantly for your friendship. Wishing you a long, happy and active retirement. **Judith Gore – SLRP Chair**

Peer Reviews

Once again we have had a 100% return in terms of the peer review process and as in previous years there has been no variation between schools’ overall self-evaluation judgements contained in the reports and those judgements arrived at by our colleagues from OFSTED. The SLRP Board, in partnership with LA colleagues, has quality assured the documentation and were again extremely grateful for the time and effort invested in the process which resulted in some very detailed and comprehensive reports.

At the last meeting we fielded a number of questions regarding the duplication of workload implied by the Local Authority request to also complete their EPA documentation. We promised at that point to consult with Dale on your behalf. Subsequently there was recognition on Dale’s behalf that the EPA did represent duplication of work but at his request and wishing to be supportive of our Local Authority we asked you to complete both sets of documentation. This was done by most of our Schools and we know that Dale and his colleagues were extremely grateful for your support in this matter.

We also promised that for the academic year 2019 /20 we would work with our LA colleagues to explore ways in which the best of our peer review process might be merged with the EPA. Judith and Steve met with Dale and Steve will represent our partnership in discussions with the LA as to how this might be best achieved.

Our peer review paperwork needs to be revised in the light of the proposals contained in the new OFSTED framework as we assume will be the paperwork for the EPA. At the summer meeting we hope to report back to you on the format that the EPA and peer review will follow.

Could we also remind colleagues of our undertaking to complete a spring / summer term catch up session within our peer review groupings.

Steve Houghton / SLRP Board
Brian Jones - Milnthorpe Consortia;
Phillipa Summers - Cartmel Consortia;
Judith Gore - Windermere Consortia

If colleagues have any thoughts on the peer review / EPA process please contact

Steve.houghton@southlakesfederation.co.uk or any member of the SLRP Board

Leadership Development

As reported in our last newsletter some form of leadership development has been recognised as a priority within several of our schools. Two fully badged NPQML programmes (hosted by SLF and Dallam School) are currently being delivered in our area and one of our SLRP colleagues is acting as a facilitator on the programme. We are extremely grateful to Dallam School for offering a limited number of free places to SLRP colleagues on their NPQML programme (normal cost in the region of £900 plus).

There is no doubt that for some colleagues the fully badged NPQML/SL programmes will be the preferred route but that for many of our schools affordability will be an issue unless we can subsidise in some way.

Dallam School will continue to act as our Leadership Training hub next year and will do their best to explore affordability. In consultation with the Board, LA and colleagues who might wish to aspire to headship in the future we have tentatively started to look at whether it might be worthwhile developing our own home grown leadership course.

Dallam School has also expressed a wish to support us with this. More detail to follow at future Members meetings.

Steve Houghton / Judith Gore
jgore@windermere.cumbria.sch.uk

KS 2 / 3 Curriculum links

At our last Members' meeting we briefly discussed the notion of developing better primary / secondary curriculum links in a meaningful way. It has been my privilege to work across both phases during my professional career and so fully appreciate the benefits that this type of development can bring.

St. Mary's school recently hosted a visit of secondary curriculum deputies to observe teaching and learning at KS 2 but also to view curriculum plans. In addition a number of primary colleagues are undertaking leadership training alongside secondary colleagues. We'd welcome any ideas on how we could further develop this strand of work.

Steve Houghton / SLRP Board

ITT

In July 2018 seven students successfully completed their training. For 2018 / 2019 we currently have just five trainees engaged on the programme. In common with national trends we have found teacher training recruitment increasingly problematic. For 2019 / 20 we are in the early stages of our recruitment process and have already secured four firm acceptances with a lot of expressions of interest and interviews in the pipeline for the coming weeks.

Whilst Burton Morewood is the nominated host school for trainees many of our schools provide high quality teaching placements and contribute to the full range of training activities. Inputs on Science, Art, Music, Phonics and EY are delivered by partner schools other than Burton.

In common with all School Direct providers we are subject to quality assurance visits and recent visits by colleagues from Hackney and Carlisle provide evidence of high quality training with personal support for trainees identified as a specific strength of our alliance.

Richard Wilson - for more information on our ITT School Direct programme please contact Richard
rwilson@burtonmorewood.cumbria.sch.uk

NQT Programme

As an appropriate Body for the induction of Newly Qualified Teachers we current have 23 NQTs registered with our alliance. In common with our ITT programme our philosophy is to draw on the expertise of our wider partnership to provide appropriate support and training. A session on Music was delivered by Beetham School, Mastery in Maths by St. Mary's Kirkby Lonsdale and a session on Reading is scheduled to be delivered in April by Lindale School. In addition a full one day conference on generic aspects of Teaching and Learning was provided in February 2019.

New guidelines recently published by the DFE suggest that there will be a move to extend the induction of NQTs from one to two years with the 2nd year also requiring a 5% reduction in normal teaching time. There is recognition that this move will require additional resourcing.

Please contact Andrea Day NQT Training Organiser for details of training activities and how to enrol on the induction programme: aday@stmarys-kl.cumbria.sch.uk

News from our Networks

SEN

In consultation with colleagues we have decided to incorporate an SEN meeting as part of our Member's agenda. Several colleagues pointed out that in a significant number of our schools responsibility for SEN rested with the Head and so it made sense to experiment with this approach.

On the 14th March we are pleased to welcome Dan Hinton (HT Sandgate School) to our meeting to speak about the Solar assessment programme which a number of our colleagues in mainstream primary and secondary schools (Kendal area) are in the process of adopting. Dan will also reference an SEN pilot programme which if successful will be rolled out to other areas of the county. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for Rachel and Steve to gauge SEN priorities for future meetings.

For enquiries re: SEN please contact Rachel Battersby
Head@Cartmel.cumbria.sch.uk

EY

In May 2018 we welcomed Shonette Basin to facilitate training with a host venue of Ambleside School. The session focussed on "Making Maths Magic" which is the balance between the formal teaching of maths and an exciting new approach to problem solving within active learning.

Our first meeting of the Autumn Term was led by our LA colleague Ann Breeze and supported by Katie Jamieson (St. Mary's KL) and Lisa Stephenson (St Martin & St. Mary's). The theme was 'Inspiring Early Writers'.

Our Spring Term session will be led by an organisation called 'Nursery Nook' who will showcase a 'Loose Parts' exhibition and demonstrate how loose parts can be used to enhance the teaching in EYFS.

Kate Dickinson (SLE Ambleside) is the EYFS work group Lead for the North North West Maths Hub. She leads sessions with around 14 EYFS teachers/Leaders in Cumbria. This involves sharing learning trajectories and pedagogy on how children learn mathematics so they can gain a secure foundation in mathematics and are ready for mastery teaching in year 1.

All three of our EY SLEs are engaged in a very exciting project with the LA as part of the peer early years support mentoring project. This involves training with the early excellence centre (Ruth Swailes) and supporting schools to develop an area of their Early Years practice.

In addition Katie Jamieson has been working with the University of Cumbria to enhance their EY Training. Live Training for over 90 students on Assessment in the Early Years was filmed and broadcast to both the Carlisle and then London campus students. Brian has recently fitted a red carpet outside Katie's classroom! In addition Katie has worked alongside Jane Morris (UoC) to plan a series of seminars on Early Years assessment.

Lisa Stephenson; Kate Dickinson; Katie Jamieson
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English

The spring 2018 session looked at different approaches to the teaching of spelling and writing across schools, including assessment/moderation/sharing good practice.

In summer term 2018 we held our end of academic year evaluation and reflection. Curriculum, Assessment, Teaching and Learning - what went well during the course of the academic year and what are the emerging issues? The session helped to identify CPD needs for the next academic year.

In autumn 2018 Nicky Edwards (Dent School) led a session on "Improving Writing Through the Outdoors". The session explored how some PE funding had been successfully used to facilitate 2 outdoor adventurous learning days to improve writing.

Spring 2019 (27th March Grange School) - Planned CPD for spelling: Caroline Yabantu (LCC) to deliver No-Nonsense Spelling to SLRP schools. Schools have been circulated with information on how to sign up for this training for which we have had to make a small charge to cover facilitator costs.

Paula Whinfield; Jackie Piper
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Jacki.piper@arnside.cumbria.sch.uk

Maths

Our Maths network group has been looking at pedagogy and practice associated with addition and subtraction and the NCETM (National Centre for Excellence Teaching Maths) spine materials for year 1.

In the spring Term the group explored the EEF improving maths in Key Stages 2 and 3 guidance report whilst sharing resources for Maths mastery. The next Maths network is scheduled for 4pm on the 13th June with a venue of St. Martin's and St. Mary's

In addition our SLEs continue to support training. In the last academic year their work has centred on developing leadership skills for those co-ordinating the Maths curriculum within their schools including issues such as effective work scrutiny, learning walks, moderating work and the use of Mathematical Mindsets and Numicon.

In the current academic year they have explored the issue of more able pupils and greater depth in using Maths toolkits to develop mental Maths skills. A summer term session is planned and will be facilitated by Louise Pennington around the topic of "Using manipulatives to promote reasoning and build pupils' critical thinking skills".

For further information on our Maths network or the work of the Maths hub contact our SLEs

Lisa Phillips, Lisa Strange, Lucy Hillbeck

lphillips@grange.cumbria.sch.uk

lhillbeck@burtonmorewood.cumbria.sch.uk

lisastrange@staveley.cumbria.sch.uk

PE

In spring term 2018 the main focus was on the power of an active school, ideas for an active break during lessons and we all enjoyed 'Jump Start Johnny!' We also had time to think about what our own school has already done to address the challenge of incorporating 30 minutes moderate to vigorous physical activity into the school day and share ideas with PE co-ordinators in South Lakes.

In autumn 2019 we looked at Active 8 (Martial Arts) – Self-defence skills specifically for primary school children. We learnt about the activities offered by Active 8 for primary schools. This led to a taster session offered to primary schools at the Lakes School.

At our spring term meeting we looked at CPD requests from individual schools and heard from the Youth Sports Trust

about the support they can provide to our schools. The summer term meeting is scheduled for the 19th June and will be led by Matthew Harris with a topic of developing football skills. The meeting will also incorporate our regular SGO update from Sharon Nicholson.

For further information on the work of our PE network contact Lisa Phillips

lphillips@grange.cumbria.sch.uk

Science

Attendance and interest in our Science network has recently dwindled despite the best efforts of our SLE colleague Abi. We welcome any ideas on how we might re-invigorate interest in this area including whether a one day event with external facilitators might be more appropriate than termly after school sessions.

The proposed new framework places increased emphasis on wider curriculum activity and it would be a pity to allow this group to lapse.

Views will be sought from Members at the AGM. In the meanwhile Abi would welcome any comments and advice.

Abi Johnson (Science SLE)

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