

Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance

Newsletter, June 2021

A warm welcome to our summer 2021 newsletter.

Despite a global pandemic, CSTA still has much to report in terms of progress made and exciting developments to come. The national picture for Teaching Schools is changing, with current Teaching School Designations ending on 31st August 2021. This does not mean the end of all the great work done by our Teaching School Alliance and all of our partner schools. In fact it gives us the scope to operate more independently in a local landscape alongside the newly appointed Teaching School Hubs.

Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance will continue to operate as a local provider for high quality:

- Initial Teacher Education
- Workforce Development CPD
- School to School Support

Our Management Board have given their full support to future developments and it is worth saying a huge thank you at this stage to the collective work and continued support of our Board:

Karen Norton – Executive Head Teacher Junction Farm Primary, Vision Academy Learning Trust

Maria Carlton - Executive Head Teacher Bewley Primary and Kirklevington Primary, 1590 Trust

Simon White - CEO Vision Academy Learning Trust

Louise Spellman - Head Teacher Conyers School, CEO 1590 Trust

Richard Henderson - Head Teacher Northfield School

Elizabeth Horne CBE - CEO Horizons Academy Trust

Initial Teacher Education

Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance runs a School Direct Teacher Training Programme in partnership with York St John University at both primary and secondary levels. The course offers PGCE at Masters level and QTS. The aim of the programme is to create outstanding teachers of the future who will be employed in our local schools and beyond for the benefit of our young people.



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This year (20-21) we are training 47 future teachers and the quality is very high, with a number already securing employment for September.

We are very proud that through the high quality support of York St John University and our Partner Schools, we have managed to give our trainees a full year of working with teachers and pupils in just the same way that our experienced teachers have had to operate. This has provided our trainees with a unique skill set and high levels of resilience and resourcefulness.

We are still recruiting for September and so far our numbers are looking very strong and at least comparable with current numbers. We are very strict in terms of our recruitment processes and only allow the very best candidates to progress successfully in our application process.

It is noteworthy that a high percentage of our recruits are former pupils of our partner schools. This is one of the strengths of such a strong local partnership, with graduates actually seeking to give back and work in and for their local community.

A great deal of credit and a huge thank you must go to our Training Leads at both primary and secondary levels:

Helen Weldon, Pat Duncan and Gill Lamb, who have provided fantastic training programmes and support to our students and their mentors.

Special mention must go to Pat Duncan who is retiring in June. Many thanks for all your brilliant work Pat, you will be greatly missed! Enjoy your retirement!

A warm welcome goes to Kyle Porritt, Bewley Primary, who is joining the Training Lead Team from September!

A special thank you goes to all of our Partner Schools who are involved in providing high quality placements for our trainees. The reciprocal benefits of having trainees should not be underestimated with a fresh perspective being brought by trainees and a sense of wider moral purpose for mentors, as well as growth for all involved.

Within each of these great schools mentors give up their time to share their experience and wisdom to give our trainees first class support . . .

Bader Primary School

Barley Fields Primary School

Chandlers Ridge Academy

Durham Lane Primary School

Egglescliffe C of E Primary School

Junction Farm Primary School

Kirklevington Primary School

Bewley Primary School

Layfield Primary School

Levendale Primary School

St. Mary's C of E Primary School

The Links Primary School

Saltburn Primary School

Village Primary School

Whinstone Primary School



All Saints Academy

Conyers School

Egglescliffe School

Ian Ramsey CE Academy

Northfield School

Trinity Catholic College

Abbey Hill Academy

From October 2021, we will be offering mentors the opportunity to take part in our own Mentor of Excellence programme. This is local accreditation and recognition for the excellent work being done by mentors and is being offered at no cost to schools. It is a great opportunity for mentors to share best practice and further develop their ideas and skills. We believe that mentors will be excited to take up this offer.

Primary Initial Teacher Education with Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance

When completing Primary training with us here at Campus Stockton, trainees are able to take advantage of the wealth of expertise in our team. Working collaboratively with York St John University, our training package is outstanding.

York St John has a legacy of training outstanding teachers since 1841. They use their proven track record to ensure trainees have the best quality support for the academic side of the course to help trainees to achieve their PGCE, as well as making a strong connection between theory and practical teaching. They also offer research based training on teaching and learning, thus ensuring all trainees knowledge is underpinned by educational research and tried and tested pedagogical theories and concepts.

With us in Stockton, trainees get the opportunity to gain hands on, practical support to help them to plan and deliver great lessons. The training we provide is from classroom based teachers who teach the Curriculum to primary children daily and understand current education context. Due to this, we are able to share with trainees the secrets of success, so they will develop a vast range of teaching and learning strategies, know what resources work and where to find them and how to turn these skills and ideas into lessons which inspire learning and help children to make progress.

We use experts to share with trainees their knowledge and experience to help make trainees the best teachers they can be. Below are some examples of what we have delivered this year:

- Head Teachers who are National Leaders of Education provided training on job application forms, interview techniques and letting trainees know what Head Teachers really look for when employing a new teacher.
- Shonette Bason Wood - world leading educationalist and author, founder of 'Spread the Happiness' trained our students on excellence in the Early Years with techniques such as 'Squiggle While You Wiggle' and 'Dough Disco'.
- A diverse school experience where trainees had the opportunity to spend a day in specialist school provision virtually - this really developed their knowledge and confidence of working with children with Special Educational Needs and is a unique learning experience. Many thanks to Abbey Hill Academy and their great staff for this!
- Pam Gartland provided training on Safeguarding - students achieved a Level 1 qualification in Safeguarding - 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and 'Keeping You Safe in Education'.
- An Educational Psychologist provided training in recognising and supporting trauma and attachment disorders, social and emotional development and the importance of language and concept formation.
- Subject experts who lead primary curriculum areas provided training on the skills and knowledge needed across the primary curriculum for foundation subjects, such as History. This gave trainees an opportunity to develop their own subject knowledge, as well as gain experience of how to deliver the foundation subjects in Primary, including the best resources and latest developments in different subjects.

Secondary Initial Teacher Education with Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance

The academic year 2020 to 2021 was the year school staff and trainee teachers were challenged like no other year, however they did get to grips with Zoom, Teams and Showbie to mention a few. September 2020 saw the commencement of the second year of Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance ITE training, numbers had doubled and excited trainees enrolled at York St John ready to begin training to be teachers. The trainees had a range of experience from career changes to straight from finishing their university degrees. Trainees specialised in a range of subjects: Mathematics, English, Science, History, Geography, MFL, Drama and PE.

The trainees started with two weeks training delivered by York St John online using Teams before joining their host school. Campus Stockton delivered training on Wednesday mornings; the first three sessions were held at Conyers School before moving online in accordance with Government guidance. Topics covered in training included:

- Ignite talks
- Teacher Voice
- Behaviour Management
- SEND
- Assessment for Learning
- Being a good tutor and the role of Head of Year
- Adverse Childhood Experience
- Retention and review
- EEF Toolkit
- Difficult Conversations
- Dealing with Angry pupils
- Online learning
- Challenging students

A huge thank you to all the staff that delivered sessions over the last year and to the schools for releasing them!

Online training has given opportunities to develop the partnership across York St John. All alliances have contributed to shared sessions across the York St John partnership. These have included: Diversity, Sixth Form, NQT (ECF), SEND.

Trainees visited Abbey Hill Academy through a full day online programme which was shared across the YSJ partnership. Sixty trainees joined Abby Hill to learn from students and staff about their unique school. The training received excellent feedback; we are already looking forward to the virtual (or face to face) visit in 2022.

As we make small steps back to 'normal' we are taking the opportunity to meet with students face to face to celebrate their success on the programme and wish them success in their future careers. Many of our trainees have secured posts in our partner schools and we will continue to support and work with them in addition to welcoming our new cohort in September.

Workforce Development CPD

From January 2022, the following programs will be offered to schools:

Teacher of Excellence

- Recognition for strong teaching within an organisation.
- An opportunity for networking across the alliance and sharing of best practice.
- Continued professional development through the accreditation process.

Teaching Assistant of Excellence

- The Teaching Assistant of Excellence is for those who want to achieve an accreditation recognising they have achieved excellence within the classroom and across the school.
- The focus of the Teaching Assistant of Excellence accreditation is on best practice, within a context and the impact on teaching and learning. It will support relationships between TAs and teachers.

Onwards and Upwards (Excellent Future Leaders)

- This course will increase the confidence and motivation of both emerging and existing middle leaders.
- Development of strategic thinking skills and increased self-awareness around leadership styles and alternative approaches.
- The course will inspire delegates to set personal targets and to develop a clear leadership vision.

Excellence at UPS

- Aimed at teachers who want to develop skills that will enable them to progress through the Threshold or Upper Pay Scale.
- The focus of the accreditation is on best practice, within a context and the impact on teaching and learning across a school.

Leader of Excellence

- Opportunities to demonstrate and reflect on performance as a middle leader and crucially, the impact that middle leadership has on others.
- A self-reflective course which gives leaders the opportunity to demonstrate and develop excellent practice.
- Can be based around subject/curriculum/whole school/other leadership.
- Building confidence and encouraging innovation.

Mentor of Excellence

- For current Initial Teacher Education Mentors from CSTA Partner Schools
- Initial Teacher Education Mentors sharing best practice
- Accreditation and recognition for excellence in mentoring

***Programs cater for a variety of contexts, both primary, secondary and FE**

If schools wish to make early expressions of interest in staff taking part in these programmes, please contact Catherine Dutson cdutson@stockonteachingalliance.org.uk or use the bookings page on our website, noting that you are expressing an interest.

School to School Support

A huge thank you goes to all Specialist Leaders of Education who have offered school to school support with Campus Stockton over the previous 5 years. Schools have been supported in many different ways via this form of peer to peer working and a full list of our great SLEs can be found on our website

<http://www.stocktonteachingalliance.org.uk/specialist-leaders-of-education/>

As the system is changing for Teaching Schools from September, so is the role of our SLEs, who will be offered the chance to transfer over to becoming Leaders of Excellence, still working within the same expertise areas and supporting local schools in areas of need.

CSTA believe that school to school support should be a positive and uplifting experience for all concerned, whilst offering a rigorous level of challenge so that support work has real impact on our young people's school experience.

The following is an example of what can be achieved through effective collaboration between SLEs, funding and support from National Bodies and our local schools. It is worth saying that most of the following work was achieved despite the challenges of lockdown. This work has also led to further funded work for our network of local special schools:

Sport England Projects

Healthy Happy Students = Better Learners

With children's levels of physical activity declining over several years, Sport England is working to ensure that every pupil in school can benefit for the physical, mental and social benefits they can gain from being physically active. Back in 2018 Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance was successful in obtaining funding from Sport England to be included in phase 2 of a nation-wide teacher training project to achieve the following outcomes in secondary schools:

- 1. Increased confidence in teachers across whole school to encourage all children to be physically active and have an understanding of why this is important.**
- 2. Students to feel more confident and capable in their abilities to be more physically active and understand how physical activity can impact on their physical, mental and social health.**
- 3. A reduction in the number of pupils perceiving to have poor experiences of PE & Sport in school.**

Nine of our Secondary Schools in Stockton-on-Tees opted to be a part of this project and undertook a survey of their students to gain information about pupils' perceptions of PE and understanding of the importance of physical activity on their health. A combination of central CPD opportunities and bespoke school projects were designed to meet the needs of the schools who came together for regular network meetings throughout the duration of the project.

Overall results from the post project student surveys showed that more children are now enjoying their PE lessons (an increase from 66% to 74%). Case studies from the teachers involved in the project also highlighted some fantastic wider impact from the project:

There has been a significant impact on the behaviours and engagement of pupils in PE, sport and physical activity as a result of our school project (Fit2Learn)... a deeper understanding of the importance of PE and physical activity and how it can positively influence mood and academic success. The re-designed KS4 curriculum has been more inclusive, allowing all pupils the opportunity to fully participate in activity they enjoy. This has been especially important for hard-to-reach groups. (Conyers School)

Teachers verified that levels of engagement throughout most year 7 & 8 lessons was high with little or no sanctions being handed out.....whole school staff engagement with role modelling good health and wellbeing was well acknowledged with the students and developed good relationships and communication. (Ingleby Manor)

We have learnt that targeting small groups of pupils works. Also lack of engagement with PE lessons and PE teachers does not mean pupils are not keen to be physically active. We are now considering an alternative option at Y10 for students who find it difficult to cope with wider school life. This will be delivered through a range of physical activity opportunities. (Ian Ramsey CE Academy)

After the success of this project, CSTA has been successful in accessing funding to work with an additional 10 schools from across Tees Valley in phase 6 of the national programme. We are excited to have started with the group of nine Special Schools and 1 PRU to identify their needs and design a programme of support to ensure we can raise the profile and enjoyment levels of PE and Sport in school, improve understanding of the benefits of physical activity and consider ways we can use physical activity to impact on whole school issues.

To Conclude

Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance would like to wish everyone a great summer and hope that we return to school in the autumn term refreshed for an exciting new school year.

Whilst the Teaching School landscape has obviously shifted considerably, CSTA will continue to offer high quality work in the training of new teachers, the support and development of current school staff and work to meet the wider needs of our local schools.

Have a great summer!

Chris Aitkin

Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance Director

<https://www.stocktonteachingalliance.org.uk/whats-on/initial-teacher-training/>



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