



InTouch

Prince Henry's Teaching School Alliance

2015 :: Issue 2



Welcome to the 2nd edition of our termly newsletter for strategic and partner schools. As we approach the end of yet another very busy term we thought you might like to see what's been happening across the alliance over the last few months. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the expansion of our School Direct provision and thank colleagues from Droitwich Spa High School, Pershore High School, The De Montfort School and the Vale of Evesham Special School for their significant contributions to the successful running of our professional studies sessions. We recently held

a briefing session for schools considering joining the Consortium and I am delighted that it is expanding to include both first and middle schools. Please do get in touch if you would like to find out more about training teachers on this route.

I'd also like to highlight the CPD offering that is attached to the newsletter. We are continuing to work with Edgehill University and will be facilitating the RQT, NPQML and NPQSL programmes next year. Further to these nationally accredited courses we have put together a series of twilight programmes, led by a wide range of experienced teachers. Please take the time to look at the details as we would warmly welcome participants from across the alliance.

Finally, if you would like to know more about any aspect of the Teaching School, are interested in getting involved in some of the projects mentioned here, or would like to use our conference centre, please contact us at teachingschool@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk

Have a great summer, we'll be in touch in the autumn to remind you of the CPD opportunities, and many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Helen Wood
Deputy Head i/c Teaching School

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Please find attached details of professional development and training being offered at Prince Henry's from September 2015

Future Events:

- » **ITT Professional/Subject Mentor Training (for SWITT Consortium)**
21st September 2015, 3:45-4:45pm
- » **NPQML (Information Evening)**
23rd September 2015, 4-5:30pm
- » **NPQSL (Information Evening)**
29th September 2015, 4-5:30pm
- » **Aspiring Middle Leaders Programme**
1st October 2015, 3:45-4:45pm
- » **The Seekers – Engaging In Teacher Led Action Research**
7th October 2015, 3:45-4:45pm
- » **Outstanding Teaching and Learning Programme**
19th October 2015, 3:45-4:45pm
- » **RQT**
5th November 2015, 9:30am-4:30pm

At the Alex Gregory Sports Pavilion and Conference Centre

We are proud to work with the following Strategic Partners in our local area:





PACEMAKER'S WORKSHOP 9TH JUNE

The Pacemakers are a group of outstanding teachers at Prince Henry's who play a crucial role in developing and sharing excellent practice. On 9th June we were joined by Mrs Mary Jessop (Assistant Head – Teaching & Learning) from Bredon Hill Middle School and Mr Nick Pullan (Deputy Head) St. Egwin's Middle School who ran two brilliant sessions during which they shared ideas from their schools.

The Pacemakers, inspired by what they heard, have all reported back to their departments who will be adopting many of the wonderful T & L strategies. We would really like to thank Mary and Nick for their significant contributions during that day and we are looking forward to reciprocating in the future!

CLOSING THE GAP

This summer colleagues at Prince Henry's, Pershore High School, and St. Egwin's have been running an intervention based on Carol Dweck's Growth Mindsets with some of our disadvantaged pupils. We are awaiting the results of their literacy and numeracy tests but are convinced that it has made a significant difference to the confidence and application of those pupils involved. We will be rolling it out to all staff from September. If you are interested in finding out more about delivering Growth Mindsets please contact David Findlay at df@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk

NPQH/NPQSL/NPQML

Following on from the successful launch of the NPQSL programme this year, we will be continuing to work with Edgehill University in delivering the RQT, NPQSL and NPQML programmes this coming autumn.

The programmes provide national recognition of leadership development and professional achievement and are delivered in a flexible, modular structure that combines core modules with the freedom to specialise through elective choices.

Further information can be found at

<http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/leadershipacademy/about/> or come to one of our information evenings at the Alex Gregory Sports Pavilion and Conference Centre:

» NPQML - Information Evening

23rd September 2015, 4.00 – 5.30pm

» NPQSL - Information Evening

29th September 2015, 4.00 – 5.30pm

The three session RQT programme starts on 5th November 2015:

» RQT

5th November 2015

Workshop 1 : The RQT Journey

2nd February 2016

Workshop 2 : Leading Learning and Innovation

10th May 2016

Workshop 3 : Leading and Managing



INTRODUCING OUR NEW ASSISTANT HEAD, ITT

We are delighted that Andy Duffy will be joining the teaching staff at Prince Henry's as Assistant Head. Having already played an integral part in setting up the South Worcestershire ITT Consortium, Andy will continue to take a lead with our School Direct and PGCE provision.

If you have any queries about routes into teaching, what School Direct involves, or you would be interested in hosting trainees for a main or second placement please get in touch with Andy at ad@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk



MR ANDY DUFFY (SLE)

SCHOOL DIRECT UPDATE: SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE ITT CONSORTIUM

School Direct 2014-15

2014-15 has been a very busy year for the School Direct Teacher Training element of the teaching school work. The consortium was successful in training 5 trainees across a range of subjects, with all achieving PGCE (with masters credits.) All consortium schools have delivered a comprehensive programme of professional studies throughout the year transferring theory into practice, giving the trainees the skills and knowledge to become better teachers.

Whilst training our first cohort, recruitment for 2015-16 began in earnest at the start of November. The consortium has had a steady flow of applicants throughout the year across all the subjects that we were allocated by the NCTL. We have now filled 7 out of the 12 places ranging from Maths, PE, MFL, Economics and Psychology. The year ahead will again be busy and exciting as our numbers increase.

The future for School Direct and Initial Teacher Training within the south of the county and alliance is exciting, and our consortium is continuing to grow for 2016-17, not only with the schools involved, but also partner Universities. We are delighted to welcome on board: Westacre, John Masfield and BCU.

Requests have recently been submitted to the NCTL for 2016-17 and we will find out early in September if our numbers have been approved.

If you would like to join the consortium or find out more about what is involved please contact Andy Duffy (ad@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk)



INTERSHIPS IN MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS

Paid internships in Mathematics and Physics for undergraduates in 2016 have been introduced by the NCTL following the publication of the Carter Review of Initial Teacher Training earlier this year. Prince Henry's High School, on behalf of the South Worcestershire ITT Consortium, has applied to host undergraduates on a four week placement at the end of the summer term 2016, hoping that this will enhance our recruitment to School Direct in shortage subjects in 2017.



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

The internship programme has been designed to attract and recruit potential teachers much earlier in their studies rather than at the end of their final year. The opportunity to design such a programme is really exciting. We are still waiting to find out if we have been successful and will update you in the Autumn term.

SUPPORTING COMPUTING ACROSS SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE (AND BEYOND!)

Martin Brant (SLE ITE) has continued to offer an extensive programme of Computing training, supporting teachers who are delivering the subject for the first time. The first session was at Millfields First School in Bromsgrove in October. It was attended by 20 primary teachers and was focused on helping prepare them to deliver the new Computing PoS. Most teachers were from Worcestershire but some came from as far as London, Bristol and Birmingham too!

Since Christmas Martin has been working closely with teachers from Prince Henry's feeder first schools. After two very productive meetings it was agreed that Martin would organise an event which might raise the profile of computing among the pupils in the first and middle schools. Martin subsequently co-ordinated a Robotics day which 10 schools attended and together they brought a total of 26 teams (99 pupils in all). In preparation Martin ran two CPD sessions for the teachers who were attending. The focus was on learning something about electronics and programming so that they could support pupils on the day. It was a huge success and all schools involved are keen to do something similar again next year at Prince Henry's. The feedback Martin has had suggests those teachers who have been involved are now feeling much more comfortable using the technology and the pupils are all fired up about getting Robotics going in their own schools!

If you would like any further information, support or guidance about Computing please email Martin at mb@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk





SCIENCE TECHNICIANS

A Science Technicians Network has been set up to support Technicians particularly in light of the upcoming changes to the curriculum. The group have met twice this year with 12 technicians from local middle schools and high schools present at the last meeting. Ideas have been shared on a whole range of issues affecting practical work in Science. Any technicians who would like to join the group for the next meeting to be held early in November are invited to email Natalie Jones nj@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk for further information.



NEW GCSE SCIENCE SPECIFICATIONS

In preparation for the new GCSE Science specifications the curriculum adviser from AQA gave a presentation to staff from a number of local schools including Prince Henry's, The De Montfort School, The Chase, Blessed Edward Oldcorne, Bredon Hill Middle School and St Egwin's. Heads of Science from some of these schools have also met together with the Head of Science at Pershore High School. Over the next few months these schools hope to work closely together to support each other in the delivery of this new course and to share good practise.



CORE MATHS UPDATE

20 Year 12 students have completed their first year of the Core Maths course. They have used this exciting opportunity to continue their mathematical studies and work particularly on problem solving, financial calculations and statistical analysis. The students have varied reasons for taking the course and include scientists, business students and potential teachers. They have all become more confident in tackling the problems put in front of them and have been positive in their feedback. We have had a very good response from Year 11 and expect to have another large group of them opting for Core Maths in their elective slot next year.



STEM ACTIVITIES AT PHHS

At Prince Henry's we offer a wide range of clubs and real-world experiences with the intention of igniting students interest and help them see the abundance of STEM related jobs that are available to them on leaving School or University. By introducing these opportunities in Year 9, we hope to encourage as many pupils to continue in STEM subjects to A level as possible.

WEEKLY CLUBS:

VEX ROBOTICS (YEAR 10-12)

VEX Robotics is an International Competition in which young engineers and programmers design, build and program fully functional robots to compete in National and International competition.

The Year 10-12 pupils meet weekly after school, ensuring that the longer-serving members are able to pass their advice and experience onto the newer recruits. Either 1 or 2 teams are organised within each year group and are responsible for their own robot build and programming.

We have had a team present at the National Finals annually (held as part of the Big Bang Science Fair either at the NEC or ExCeL arena) but this year, as the pupils expertise has developed, one of our teams was so successful that they were allocated a place at the World Championships in Kentucky, USA.

Unfortunately, due to the timing just before their AS exams and the short turn around time to raise funding, they could not accept the place but it has acted as a spur to ensure next year they repeat the feat but this time have sponsorship in place.

VEX MICROBOT (YEAR 9)

This club was new for the academic year 2014/15 to replace the Toyota STEM Challenge which we had entered previously and enjoyed some significant success, reaching the National Final twice out of 3 attempts. We are looking to revamp the Microbot club as the kit has not been as effective as we had hoped. The focus of the club is to start developing the Year 9 pupils programming skills so that they can become part of the VEX Robotics club and have a greater skillset from the off.

PROGRAMMING (YEAR 9)

A weekly club giving pupils the opportunity to develop programmes to a greater depth than in lessons.



ANNUAL STEM EVENTS

PYRAMID STEM DAY

This involves a visit by approximately 400 pupils from five schools to PHHS for a presentation (eg Bloodhound landspeed record car, Science magician) and Space Planetarium show.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM STEM DAY

This year 40 Year 10 pupils attended exploring the 'Mathematics of Zombies', 'The treatment of Ebola' and 'Bridges for Beginners'.

UNDERDEVELOPMENT

2 DAY STEM OUTWARD BOUND COURSE

We are pursuing the concept of a STEM course that includes climbing, zipwiring, walking and boating which focusses on the Science and Maths aspect of the activity. We will be trialling this in 2016.

OTHER EVENTS

- » Aston Martin presentation at Malvern Festival of Innovation
- » QinetiQ STEM day
- » Visit to Retro Computer Museum
- » SCItech conference

- » Cyber security day
- » Bletchley Park (ICT and Maths)
- » Cyber Skills Challenge
- » National Cypher Maths Challenge
- » New Designers Show
- » Visit to Jaguar Landrover
- » GCSE Science Live at Symphony Hall
- » Big Bang Fair at NEC

COMPETITIONS ENTERED;

- » Arkwright Scholarship
- » Nuffield Research placement
- » Bill Bryson prize
- » The Triple Helix

We are always looking to extend our remit and if your school would be interested in attending or becoming involved please contact Dee Martin dm@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk



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