

THRIVE TEACHING SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2016



INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

School Direct recruitment for September 2016 has gone well and across the alliance we have already recruited English (Salaried), Maths, History, Drama and MFL trainees. There are currently still places available in Maths, Science and English across St Richard's, Claverham Community College and Bexhill Academy as well as Physics and Computing to be based at St Richard's. There are also School Direct places available for Primary schools if any colleagues would like to support a School Direct trainee next year. Recruitment is up from this time last year and all of our current trainees have already secured teaching positions for September.

Professional Studies this term has mainly focused on AfL, Assessment and Monitoring, working with Teaching Assistants as well as there being opportunities to review portfolios with trainees ahead of their assessments this term. We wish them the best of luck with these.

If anyone has any other ideas for joint professional studies sessions for next year's trainees, do let me know. Here at St Richard's we will have six new mentors so I envisage particular training sessions needed for those mentors too.

I would also ask that you start to consider what places for School Direct you would like to host for September 2017. The NCTL process will begin in July so I will be making contact with all schools regarding this.

If anyone would like to assist with recruitment events, are able to offer any in-school training sessions or have any questions regarding School Direct, please contact:

Lis Wood, Professional Tutor
mrswoode@strichardsc.com

NQT INDUCTION PROGRAMME

Our NQTs are progressing to a high standard across the two TSAs of Thrive and Cuckmere House.

The NQTs this year have had the opportunity to visit each other and learn from different settings and schools as well as attend critical study sessions with their tutor from the University of Sussex who specialises in NQT development.

Monitoring visits completed in May for every NQT indicate that we have strong systems of support, induction and development across our Teaching School Alliances. All of this evidence of good practice will inform our processes as an appropriate body in 2016-2017.

For schools recruiting NQTs in the next few months we are registered as an appropriate body in the same way as the Local Authority and have modelled our paperwork on their system for ease of all schools. Additionally, we provide a bespoke CPD package and personalised tracking of NQTs as well as support for Induction Tutors.

For further information please contact Joanne at teachingschool@strichardsc.com.

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN MIDDLE AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP

The National College is currently reviewing its programmes. However, the National College Middle Leader, Senior Leadership and Headship Programmes are to continue through the current licence providers until the end of 2017. These programmes have proved highly popular with over 32,000 teachers undertaking the qualification since their beginning. Our local cluster is currently recruiting for programmes beginning in the Autumn Term.

For further details on how to apply and the costs of the programme please see the adverts on the St Richard's Catholic College website (links below) or alternatively contact Joanne at teachingschool@strichardsc.com.

Leadership Development - NPQML / IoE flyer

Leadership Development - NPQSL / IoE flyer

ASPIRANT HEADTEACHER PROGRAMME

The face to face sessions have been completed with participants valuing the programme highly. Our thanks to Dr Paul Jones, Headteacher of Orchard's Junior School, Worthing, Julie Knock Bravery from Pound Hill Infant Academy, Crawley and Caroline Thayre of Robsack Wood Primary Academy for hosting and participating in the Programme. Our participants are now signed up for two coaching sessions and their final twilight on 5th July.

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Aspirant Headteacher Programme continued

In evaluations so far participants have noted that this programme has been highly successful in moving leaders along their journey into Headship. In some cases this is because the programme has built confidence in participants and spurred others to action. Comments that illustrate this include: "made me feel headship is actually possible"; "I feel confident a headship is on the horizon"; "it has made me think about my next steps a lot earlier than I ever envisaged"

Funding for further programmes has yet to be offered however we are confident that we can build on the success of this model to develop it further in the future.

All schools involved in the programme are outstanding schools and are worth a learning visit!



ARTSWORK FUNDING

The TSA and EIP Artwork programme is approaching the end of its first year. Current work

includes a Professional Story Teller working with Year 6 pupils at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School on myths and legends in the margins of the Bayeux Tapestry and a dance group working with Year 4 pupils at Chantry Primary school. An artist will be working with KS4 Art and Design pupils at St Richard's Catholic College. As the programme continues into year 2 there will be further opportunities for schools to work with the arts.

Year 2 Teachers at St Thomas a Becket have found the input valuable on a number of levels as they have planned and worked together with their artist, one teacher noted:

'I would firstly like to point out how much my class have enjoyed having Kevin in our school. The children look forward to Thursday afternoons (when Kevin is in 2B) and have thoroughly loved having him in our class. I have received positive feedback from parents about how children have gone home and not stopped talking about Kevin, the story teller. The sheer excitement and joy I have seen in the children's faces and watching Kevin's way with children has been absolutely inspirational!'

The evaluation points to good levels of impact on pupil vocabulary and an improvement in pupil behaviour management techniques for the teachers.

De La Warr Pavilion Exhibitions

Schools wishing to visit the latest exhibition [Willem Sandberg from type to image](#) in Gallery 1 to 04/09/2016 should contact the learning development officer, ashley.mccormick@dlwp.com. The exhibition tracks his work from the 1930's to the 1980's and also has a film about his role in the Dutch resistance during WW2. One teacher noted 'it's like having a London exhibition on your doorstep and it's free!'

Gallery 2 Richard Forster Levittown: This new exhibition of sculpture and drawings on paper is based on Forster's 18 month study of Levittown, the 1947 suburban housing project in New York state, USA.

The DLWP offer guided tours of the exhibition or building @ £40 per class/group and 2 hour artist led workshops @ £150 per class/group. Please visit the website for further details or call 01424 229103.

Artwork Conference Wednesday, 29th June

Coin Street Conference Centre, London

The 2016 Artwork Conference will bring together leaders from education, schools and arts and culture to reflect on the difference that arts and cultural education makes to the lives - and life chances - of children and young people. The day will be packed with inspiring speakers, active and engaging workshops, innovative ideas, and thought-provoking case studies.

We will be joined by keynote speakers: Baroness Estelle Morris of Yardley, Althea Efunshile, Deputy Chief Executive, Arts Council England and Lemn Sissay MBE

Plus: performances and provocations from young people and sessions on Arts Award and the Paul Hamlyn foundation

If you want to learn more about our speakers & workshop leaders see [here](#)

The day will run from 9:15am to 4pm. Click [here](#) for the full agenda.

Please email elspeth@artwork.org.uk for more information.

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If you are interested in being involved in Arts related programmes or would like to work with the De La Warr Pavilion or join the Hastings and Rother Arts Network to enhance pupil learning through the Arts please contact Joanne at: teachingschool@strichardscc.com.

TEACHER SUBJECT SPECIALIST TRAINING

Our Primary Maths Programme designed by Maths leads from Rother EIP schools is taking place on June 15th, 22nd and 29th 2016. Thanks to Glenleigh Park Primary Academy, Battle and Langton CE Primary School, Chantry Community Primary School, Sedlescombe CEP and the University of Sussex. We have 3 free places remaining. The sessions are whole days and take place at Sussex University. To book a place, please contact Stephen@fulcrumlearning.co.uk.

The Thrive Teaching School has successfully entered a bid for further funding for Maths and Physics specialism training in partnership with Inspire Teaching School and Millais Teaching School. This will ensure that further free training will be available from September 2016.

Additionally, we are awaiting the outcome for a bid submitted with Millais Teaching School for specialist language training which will focus on pedagogy in languages and will be delivered at Brighton University campus.

MATHS HUB NEWS

Maths Hub Update June 2016

Here is an overview of the successes so far this year led by Jonathan Beaumont at St. Richard's.

Activity

- Analysis of data for participation rates.
- Core Maths Visits- round 1: visits with CMSP to as many of the core maths early adopters as possible. Visited the Early Adopters in order to see the work they are doing and used that information to inform future funding and spreading good practice.
- Attended the East Sussex LA Post 16 Education Improvement Partnership Group in order to disseminate the work of the post 16 group and collaborate on future projects.

- FMSP Advisory Forum: gaining knowledge to spread to post 16 providers. Attended these meetings and disseminate information across the hub region via the hub newsletter,
- Submitted to 3 names for Advanced PD Leads.
- Audited LPPs for training needs.
- Women in Mathematics Conference 1 Sussex Coast College run by Letty Gallagher was very successful.
- Hosted FMSP Maths Feasts to encourage post 16 participation.

Future event to note - Maths Conference Autumn 2016 – St. Paul's Catholic College

We are currently evaluating the projects within the Hub and have met to feedback on how these projects are progressing. In July we will submit our action plan for the new academic year 2016-17 and plan to focus on two workgroups: KS2 to KS3 Transition and Gender and Secondary Maths.

If you would like to be included in either of the workgroups, please contact Michelle Gaines at mrsgainesm@strichardscc.com.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS

The NCETM are looking to work with Secondary Schools on a reasoning project.

Secondary schools in five areas of England are being sought to take part in a trial of mathematical reasoning materials for Key Stage 3 pupils.

The trial, funded by the Educational Endowment Foundation (EEF), is of materials developed by the [ICCAMS \(Increasing Competence and Confidence in Algebra and Multiplicative Structures\) project](#), which investigates ways of raising students' attainment and engagement by using formative assessment to inform teaching and learning of mathematics in secondary school.

Working in collaboration with the universities of Nottingham, Durham and Manchester, and through the NCETM and the Maths Hubs programme, ICCAMS is seeking a total of 110 schools in five broad areas including the South East.

To register your interest please contact Email Clare Collyer, Administrator, or telephone 0191 334 4682. Funding is available for participating schools. Check out the NCETM website for more details <https://www.ncetm.org.uk/>

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NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST

The Trust have released their latest survey on Children and Young People's reading 2015. Key findings include:

Levels of reading for enjoyment increased slightly.

In 2015 children and young people were nearly twice as likely to read outside class every day for fun as they were to read for information although this is only 32% of children.

61% of children and young people say they have a favourite book or story. Books include Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Harry Potter, Girl Online, The Hunger Games and Tom Gates titles

Young people who enjoy reading are more than three times as likely to read above the level expected for their age as young people who do not enjoy reading at all.

For the whole report check out the National Literacy Trust website

Free Resources

Euro 2016 and The Battle of the Somme Literacy Kit

In 1916, many famous footballers from across the UK fought in the trenches of the First World War. As the centenary of the Battle of the Somme coincides with UEFA Euro 2016, both in France this summer, we have worked with children's author and football fanatic Tom Palmer to create an exciting set of literacy resources for students aged 7-13.

In combining this historic event with a major football tournament we hope to inspire pupils to read, write and reflect.

Euro 2016 and Battle of the Somme Literacy Toolkit

Live sixteen-chapter story responding to the unfolding events of Euro 2016 and featuring a Somme centenary story line - first chapter now available.

Daily writing exercises during the tournament period inspired by both events - first activity available on 13th June.

The toolkit and story are freely available but you will need to join the National Literacy Trust Network to access the writing activities.

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Grants that schools can apply for:

Funding for UK-Germany World War I Projects (UK)

A new funding opportunity is available for schools and youth groups to bring young people of the UK and Germany together to facilitate an exchange of ideas, joint learning and open discussions on topics related to World War One. Open to applications from primary and secondary school teachers, trainees and youth workers. There is funding of £500 to £5,000 available for projects that have a high level of interaction between young people in the two countries, be it virtual or through a visit/exchange trip. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and your project should have a start date of at least 6 weeks ahead from when you send your application.

<http://www.ukgermanconnection.org/ww1projects>

The Ernest Cook Trust Grants Programme (UK)

Schools wishing to encourage young people's interest in the countryside and the environment, the arts or aiming to raise levels of literacy and numeracy can apply for funding to the Ernest Cook Trust (ECT). The Trust operates two grant making programmes. The small grants programme (under £4,000) supports state schools which would like to undertake projects which meet the Trust's objectives and require a small amount of pump-priming in order for such projects to take place and a larger grants programme for grants in excess of £4,000. Grants in the past have been awarded to Fleet Infant School in Hampshire which received a grant of £1,495 to buy Numicon teaching resources, and to raise numeracy levels for the school's 300 pupils; and Swiss Cottage School which received a grant of £7,272 towards an art tutor and resources for an out-of-hours learning project, ensuring learning throughout the year for its 237 special needs pupils. Applications to the small grants programme can be made at any time. The next closing date for applications for the large grants programme is 31st July 2016.

<http://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/grants/>

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FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS TO PURCHASE MUSICAL EQUIPMENT (UK)

Schools in the UK, that wish to purchase musical instruments and equipment can apply for funding of up to £2,000 through the EMI Music Sound Foundation's Instrument and/or Equipment Awards. To date the Foundations has made awards to over two thousand schools, individual students and teachers improve their access to music through the purchase or upgrade of musical instruments and equipment. The funding has to be made for music education that is beyond statutory national curriculum music teaching. The Foundation cannot fund retrospectively and schools are not eligible for financial assistance under this scheme if they have already purchased their instruments or if they do so before their application has been approved. The closing date for applications is 30th August 2016.

<http://www.emimusicfoundation.com/index.php/site/awards/>

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS!

Robertsbridge Community College

Making a bat for "Cookie"

"I don't think I've ever seen pupils at RCC quite so excited returning from a trip", so tweeted Head Mr Downs as a group of very happy Year 7 students returned following a morning at Gray Nicolls in the village.

"Chance to Shine" is on a mission to spread the power of cricket and get it back in to state schools. With the advent of the facilities here at the College now including cricket nets, more students are already showing an interest. "Chance to Shine" has entered a five year partnership with Gray Nicolls for the supply of official kit.

On arrival the group of students donned the bright yellow T-shirts and went off to the workshop to meet up with master bat-maker, Chris King. Here they set about crafting a bat, learning the process of: selecting the right "cleft"; adding the handle; shaping the bat; and most importantly, checking the weight. As they were busy taking in the intricacies of bat making they were joined by Alastair Cook, fresh from Test success in South Africa. Alastair is a long term ambassador for

Chance to Shine and a great advocate for spreading the power of cricket to more schools and communities.

With a finished bat in hand the students then went on to help with adding the grip and decals to the bat, all with the help of England cricket captain, Alastair Cook.

An impromptu knock about inside the workshop, with the great man bowling, followed on from interviews with the BBC. Sadly only the interview between Alastair and BBC cricket presenter Jo Wilson was shown, but the students were filmed and there is chance the event will still be aired.

The session concluded with Alastair autographing and presenting the bat to the students, to bring it back to the College as a memento of the morning. It will go on display in the foyer, once his signature has been safely sealed.

"I really enjoyed the morning. It was so much fun and great to be given the opportunity to meet the England cricket Captain", so said Charlie Wilson.

Amnesty International

A small group of students from Robertsbridge Community College were privileged to be taken to Chichester Cathedral for an Amnesty International workshop and talk.

The morning session, taking place in the "Dean's Hall" was a workshop looking at the Declaration of Human Rights. This involved a series of short talks, discussions and practical activity, with three schools represented. The two ladies from Amnesty International divided the students into groups and challenged them to examine a selection of pictures and decide which "rights" had been taken from the individuals shown. They also had to view a street scene and decide which "rights" were evidenced or missing. Each student was given a small passport containing the 30 articles of the Human Rights Act.



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The morning concluded with time in the Cathedral including a visit to the Amnesty candle.

For the afternoon five more school groups joined the morning session for a riveting and emotional talk by Stephen Frank, a holocaust survivor. For nearly an hour and a half the students, and accompanying staff, sat spellbound as Stephen delivered his powerpoint-accompanied talk on his life before and during the Second World War. Living in Amsterdam, from an affluent Jewish family, at an early age his life was upturned when the Germans arrived. His father failed to return from his work one day having been arrested and late sent to his death in one of the camps. A short while later the rest of the family were interred in a series of transit camps, two in Holland, before eventually arriving in a camp not far from Pilsen in Czechoslovakia. It is likely that, had the Red Army not arrived and liberated the camp when they did, Stephen would not have survived much longer. He would either have succumbed to the malnutrition and illness afflicting him, or along with his family been sent to the nearby camp of Auschwitz.

Perhaps one of his most harrowing tales was the one about all the children; he was nine at the time, put in line and made to pass little boxes along between a building and the river where the last one threw them into the water. They were the cremated ashes of their friends and family.

Many of the RCC students took the opportunity to purchase Stephen's book and have a private word with him at the end of the afternoon.

Sedlescombe C. E. Primary School

- Our school choir won the 1066 choir competition, competing against eight other school choirs at The White Rock Theatre on 29th April. Their prize was £250 and the opportunity to sing with the Hastings Philharmonic Choir on 9th July at a special concert at Christ Church. The choir has also been selected to sing at the Bishop's conference on 30th June, and at a Red Cross event for The Blind Association on 24th May.
- We have been doing some community work with Pestalozzi, and our school council has been fundraising for them. We raised £50 at an Easter

Art Competition. On 20th May, the school council are organising a cake sale for Pestalozzi and St. Michael's Hospice.

- The ABC schools held a British Values day for Year 5 and Year 6b pupils on 17th May, taking place at Catsfield School.

Marian C. Ham (Mrs.) Headteacher

Mrs Ham retires this summer, after 25 years as the Headteacher. Although she feels very sad to be leaving her wonderful and successful school, she is delighted that a new Headteacher, Mrs Caroline Harvey, has been appointed to start in September.

We wish Marian all the very best in her retirement!

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION LINK

After many months of eager anticipation and preparations from every department in the school, St Richard's Catholic College joined with pupils from 19 other schools and colleges to witness a historic live radio link with Tim Peake on board the International Space Station, at 15:56 on Monday, April 18th 2016. Many thanks to Dr Joolz Durkin, whose enthusiasm and commitment saw the project through from the initial application to the main event.

The Mayor joined governors, staff, pupils past and present, priests, parents, parishioners, press and public as we hosted a full day STEM Space Conference featuring a smorgasboard of space related hands-on activities. Hundreds of pupils from Years 4 to 13 explored the event during the day, meeting a spacewoman; visiting the inflatable planetarium, using the remote handling model 'Canada arm'; investigating the electromagnetic spectrum; learning Morse code; investigating telescopes and competing for Fun with Maths prizes! Year 8 enjoyed a talk on 'Extreme Astronomy' and Year 10 were enthralled by 'It Is Rocket science' – a careers focused discussion, delivered by Dr Das Baskill, of the University of Sussex. Year 7 pupils were treated to the interactive 'Destination Space' workshop from the outreach team at Herstmonceux Science Centre. After a brief introduction from Miss Cronin, Principal, the ceremonies commenced with a spine-tingling version of David Bowie's 'Starman' delivered with great gusto by Year 7.

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The UK Space Agency's Jeremy and Susan introduced the Principia Mission and welcomed the ARISS co-ordinator, Ciaran Morgan, who used a borrowed model of the ISS to explain the relative position of the communication module. Having explained how tricky the contact could be, there was a tangible sense of anticipation as Year 9 pupil Lucy Woolridge commenced the call. The questions were asked by pupils who had worked hard to obtain their radio licences.

It took five attempts by Lucy before Tim replied saying, 'I hear you loud and clear'. BBC South East broadcast the event on Facebook Live in real time, while the ARISS website streamed the presentations in their entirety.

Both BBC South East and Meridian Television featured the event in their evening news, with BBC Sussex broadcasting live during the radio breakfast show. An amazing day for the whole community and one we can all be rightly proud of.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAMME

Congratulations to the fourteen teaching assistants who completed the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme on 29th April 2016.

The programme was delivered over three afternoon sessions at Pebsham Academy Primary School and covered; Defining SEN, The role of an outstanding TA, Developing Practice in school, Questioning to Support learning, Supporting Effective Behaviour for Learning. The trainers received some great feedback to develop the course further, comments included "Really, really enjoyed every session!"; "Learnt a lot of new things"; "The course has been really informative in a way I hadn't considered before".

The next programme will run in September 2016.

SPECIALIST LEADERS OF EDUCATION

Thanks to those leaders who have applied for this system leader role. Interviews will occur on June 14th and successful applicants will be announced in the September Newsletter.

The Teaching Schools of East Sussex invite you to attend our free SLE training event.

23rd June from 2.00-5.00pm at the Buxted Park Hotel.

This is an opportunity for SLEs who are new to the role or would like to refresh or deepen their SLE skills. This session will be an opportunity to:

- Develop a deep understanding of learning walk protocols
- Deepen knowledge of what to look for in lesson observations
- Further your understanding of values and relationships
- Develop techniques for how to give bad news

To book your place please contact Chris Hollands at chollands@strichardscc.com tel 01424 731070.

THE BIG VOTE ELECTION 2015

Young people from schools across East Sussex visited the Houses of Parliament on 15th March for an event celebrating their schools' participation in the Big Vote 2015. The Democracy Awards ceremony, held at the Palace of Westminster, saw certificates handed out to 23 of the 35 secondary schools which achieved an award. The Westminster event was chaired by two Year 11 pupils from St Richard's Catholic College, and a 13-year-old Cabinet member from Peacehaven Community College.

14,258 votes were cast in total in the Big Vote, with students being asked to vote for their preferred candidate and the two issues they felt most strongly about from a list of 10. The top issue was 'Tackling and preventing bullying and abuse, in all its forms', with a massive 4219 votes. For a breakdown of votes cast please click here.

The East Sussex Youth Cabinet will now spend time creating and implementing campaigns to combat bullying and abuse in schools and throughout wider society, along with other youth issues.

Congratulations to all the Elected Candidates.

FREE RESOURCES

Countryside Classroom - connecting schools with food, farming and the natural environment

<http://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/>

Huge amount of resources on this website from early years through to KS4. The website includes a wide range of supporting organisations as well as places to visit.

Joanne Calladine-Evans, Teaching School Director,
Thrive Teaching School Alliance
St Richard's Catholic College - Lead School