

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

AUTUMN TERM

16/12/2021

HTSA
HACKNEY TEACHING
& SCHOOLS' ALLIANCE



Sunny Whitstable: the location of our Annual Conference

IN THIS ISSUE:

Our Annual Conference



MLP has begun!



SCP - Starting January



Course Feedback



News and Events

A FANTASTIC START TO THE YEAR

As the Autumn term draws to a close, we are taking the time to reflect on some of the professional development events that have happened here at the **HTSA** since September. From the engaging and supportive Annual Conference in Whitstable, to the launch of this years Middle Leadership Programme, we have hosted an assortment of sessions that continue to benefit everyone who is part of our alliance! Our **Initial Teacher Training Programme** also continues, with new applications flowing in for next year, too! Read on to find out more about our latest news and events. We hope you enjoy!



FEEDBACK

We have hosted a variety of events, sessions and forums at the **HTSA** this term, and we are so pleased to hear that participants found each and every one of them hugely **valuable**. Take a look at some of the comments below to see which ones make us especially proud:

'The opportunity to reflect on my role as a professional and my impact within my school has been incredibly useful.'

(MLP Participant)

'I felt welcome and I was very well looked after - especially as this was my first HTSA conference.'

Annual Conference Participant)

Just so interesting and engaging. Kept me engaged at all times!

(MLP Participant)

'The guest speaker was fantastic. Our SLT are having good conversations about the curriculum and there were useful ideas to be shared.'

(Annual Conference Participant)



Hackney Teaching & Schools' Alliance

MIDDLE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

This November, our **Middle Leadership Programme** began, with an informative and engaging session led by Dez Veares and Kate O'Shaughnessy from UCL IOE. They introduced the programme, got to know participants and has begun the journey that will ensure this group will thrive in their Middle Leadership roles!

Each session is designed to allow participants to become comfortable and feel empowered in their role, and provide them with the tools they need to go back to their schools and manage, lead and inspire their teams.



MLP Participants working together to solve a team building puzzle

Interested in joining the programme next year?

Who should attend?



Staff currently in, or potentially moving into, **middle leadership roles**. We are looking for the **high-performers** of the future. If you believe you have the **ambition, commitment, confidence, passion and courage** to face the challenges of management and leadership in our schools, we encourage you to apply. If you want to encourage a culture of **healthy challenge, celebration, high achievement, emotional intelligence** and **trust** in school, this is the programme for you.

Get in touch with us to sign up today!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

14th - 15th October 2021



This October, we hosted another successful head teachers' conference at **The Marine Hotel** in Whitstable, where delegates had the opportunity to learn, share good practice and discuss all the ways in which they can continue to provide high quality education for children in **Hackney**. The conference lasted two days and included a range of **activities and interactive workshops** that allowed head teachers to discuss curriculum development with like minded colleagues who share the same goals.

Our heads were lucky enough to showcase their fantastic vocals, as **The English Touring Opera** hosted a workshop where heads were taught how to control and project their voices. This was a continuation of our conversation on providing support around mental health and wellbeing. These workshops are available for students in schools too, and are a fantastic way of getting pupils to engage with opera in a fun and accessible way. We even had a visit from curriculum expert **Mary Myatt**, who delivered an in depth key note on how to develop thoughtful work on the curriculum. This has allowed heads to consider what they can do to improve their provision and encourage their teachers to implement impactful curriculum content that is valuable to each and every child. Next year's conference is shaping up to be just as thought-provoking, so we are very much looking forward to welcoming our heads to Whitstable once more!



SUCCESSFUL CLASSROOM PRACTICE PROGRAMME

starting 11th January 2022 – Get in touch to sign up!

The Hackney Teaching & Schools' Alliance Successful Classroom Practice course is a **hands-on, practical** course for primary school teachers in the **second** or **third** year of their careers, created to support them as they to hone their classroom skills and develop as outstanding practitioners. By harnessing the professional learning techniques which we know have the most impact in the classroom – **peer observation, self-reflection, and collaboration** – participants will work together to explore best practice, define what successful teaching and learning look like, and embed this in their classrooms.

Who should attend?

Primary school teachers in their second or third year of teaching, who demonstrate the ability to become highly effective practitioners. They must demonstrate a strong commitment to **professional development** and improving their classroom practice, and be willing to **reflect, collaborate and open up** their classrooms to their peers and to HTSA specialists. Teachers attending should be willing to summarise the impact of their learning in a presentation to senior leaders from the HTSA.

How much does it cost?

HTSA member schools receive one **free** place. Extra places cost **£600pp** for HTSA members and **£900pp** for non-members.

*The course has really allowed me to **self-reflect** and think about how to better my practice. The sessions are **invaluable**.*

When does it take place?

This course is made up of **3** group sessions with 1:1 coaching between each meeting: Tuesday 11th January, 9.30am-3.30pm; Tuesday 22nd March, 9.30am-3.30pm; Tuesday 14th June, 9.30am-5pm. See below for a detailed breakdown of the course.

1. Setting out your stall:

Tuesday 11th January 2022, 9.30am-3.30pm, via Zoom

Course overview | Building a positive learning environment | Harnessing formative assessment | Stimulating engagement | Understanding the learning journey | Planning a starter



2. Moving learning on:

Tuesday 22nd March 2022, 9.30am-3.30pm, Randal Cremer Primary School (COVID permitting)

Responding to learners' needs | Challenge and mastery | Formative assessment during lessons | Plenaries – the importance of reviewing learning | Shared planning | Preparation for presentations

3. Teaching backwards:

Tuesday 14th June 2022, 9.30am-5pm, Randal Cremer Primary School (COVID permitting)

Open to primary and secondary school teachers (one-off day course £100)

Presented by Mark Burns, the author of "Teaching Backwards", the session will draw on learning in his bestselling book. It will focus on unpicking and analysing teaching practice, before applying 'thinking steps' to planning for progression through a module of learning or topic. Primary school teachers who have completed the whole course will finish the day presenting to a panel of HTSA senior staff.

Sessions 4, 5 and 6 are the **gap tasks** between each group session – delivering and filming teaching, lesson visits and coaching with one of the HTSA's specialists, COVID permitting.

OUR ITT PROGRAMME IS UNDERWAY

Our **Initial Teacher Training Programme** got off to superb start this September, with a fun filled visit to the **Hackney School of Food** for our apprentices. Here, they were able to get to know each other, take part in an essential safeguarding session run by Kate Roberts and Lisa Clarke, alongside an introduction to the programme. They were also able to have a tour of Hackney School of Food and it's beautiful garden with Tom Walker, Head Food Educator.

The **Winter holiday** has now arrived which means our apprentices have successfully completed their first term and are really starting to understand their roles as primary school educators. We are so excited to see them continue to flourish in their roles!

We have several employment opportunities available on next year's ITT Programme, and with applications already flying in, we are gearing up to welcome our next cohort in September!



PARTNERSHIP GROUP MEETING

1st December 2021

Earlier this month, head teachers from schools across our alliance got together for our termly **Partnership Group Meeting** at The Boxing Academy in Clapton. During the meeting, they discussed ways in which the **HTSA** could continue to support with high quality provision for trainee teachers, early career teachers, established teachers and schools as a whole.

They even had the opportunity to take part in a demonstration by **Now Press Play**, who offer schools an immersive audio resource that engages students through sound, story and movement, as well as a Q&A with Nestor Diaz from **London Mini Basket**, who promotes engagement and health in students through basketball. Once the meeting was over, Anna Cain, Principal at the academy, gave heads a tour of the school and they were able to watch a boxing session take place in the ring!





Hackney School of Food

Hackney School of Food, associated with the **LEAP Federation** and based next to Mandeville Primary School, offers a broad range of classes for primary, secondary and SEND students, and even caters to adults too. So whether you'd like to book a session for a class who would benefit from learning invaluable cooking skills, or schedule a team building exercise for a group of colleagues, this is the perfect place to do so!

Head Food Educator, **Tom Walker**, is dedicated to delivering outstanding classes and uses his expertise and flexibility to adjust each session to your specific needs. He works in partnership with Head Gardener, **Lidka D'Agostino**, who produces a variety of ingredients and seasonal vegetables in the grounds of the school itself. They even have 17 seater minibus and driver available which can be added to your booking fee at a small extra cost. This means that half a class can arrive and get started with a garden session, whilst the other half arrive in time for the main cookery session, allowing them to experience the gardening segment whilst the first group are returned to your school. This means your visit will remain seamless, easy and hugely beneficial to the development of your pupils.

The facilities are also available on evenings and weekends for events.

If you are interested in booking a class, email hello@hackneyschooloffood.com today!



OTHER NEWS

Early Career Teacher Programme

Our Early Career Teacher Programme, delivered in partnership with the East London Teaching School Hub, is in full swing this term, and despite some challenges faced nationally as we implement the new early career framework, participants and trainers have been able to work collaboratively to ensure high standards of teaching are always met. We are particularly proud of the feedback we have received which praises our trainers Jo Riley and Kate Roberts, who have been dedicated to using their experience and expertise to ensure ECTs receive detailed and bespoke support throughout the duration of the programme. They have seamlessly adapted to delivering sessions online as a result of the pandemic, and continue to offer 1:1 advice when needed. One participant said "The best part of the experience thus far has been the support and training. Kate and Jo were really beneficial and provided practical support for the challenges ECTs are facing in their first year of teaching. Kate has done a fantastic job altering the programme to suit the needs of our cohort".

The Boxing Academy Podcast

Ruari Stanfield-Bruce recorded a series of podcasts at the Boxing Academy last term: "UNdamaged Goods is a podcast created to give inner-city youcially those out of mainstream school, a platform to voice their opinions and tell their stories. For this first series, I'm getting to know the students at The Hackney Boxing Academy."

iTunes: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/undamaged-goods/id1577748524>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/3jSwc8DUJiEmiOW3oODGtn>

Art Project: Rio Cinema Exhibition

All HTSA schools were involved in producing interesting pieces of artwork for an Art Project last academic year, developed by local artist, Tom Pearman. Tom planned on hosting an exhibition at the Rio Cinema this term so that pupils could see their amazing masterpieces on show.

This was originally planned to take place in December, but it has now been rearranged for the Spring term. A new date will be announced in due course!

GALLERY

Here are some of our favourite images from this term!



Students from the LEAP Federation schools welcomed huge puppet, Amal, to London. She represents the struggle that Syrian refugees have to face in 2021.



Teachers from Mandeville Primary School showcase their fantastic pumpkin carving skills this Halloween!

The delicious Christmas lunch served up at Clapton Girls' Academy this week.



The pretty candle holders pupils made at Gayhurst Primary School made to celebrate Diwali



Two of our ITT apprentices getting stuck in with the chickens at Hackney School of Food



We hope you have enjoyed this issue of the HTSA newsletter. Please get in touch with Katie with any feedback, potential features or general thoughts. It's very much welcomed!