

Teaching Assistant Newsletter

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Autumn Term – December 2006

Who's a Tigger?! TA Conference 2006



Roy Leighton:
'Everyone is valued'

Nearly 300 colleagues came to the two Teaching Assistant Conferences in November, and over 80 to the HLTA Conference – a big rise on the previous year. Following his success with HLTAs last year Roy Leighton was the key note speaker at the TA Conference, and managed to amuse, challenge and inspire in equal measure. His message was again about developing emotional intelligence, and the importance of being an adult in all our relationships, starting by being aware of the point of view of others. (Roy: "When I run training, everyone is valued, including me.")

Many delegates were left wondering which character they are from "Winnie the Pooh":

10% Tiggers – *"Yes!! Wow!! Let's do it!!! Bounce!!!"*

40% Kangas – *"I'll think carefully and need to plan but I'm on board."*

40% Eeyores – *"It will never work and we're all doomed, but I suppose we'll have to do it anyway."*

10% Owls – *"Only I know everything and I'll tell you what to do when I'm ready."*

One of my favourite quotes came from a pupil that Roy worked with:

"If you know books but you don't know me, you don't know nuffin."

Preparations for next year's conference have already begun – the dates for your diary are:

Weds 28 Nov 2007

Fri 30 Nov 2007

Network Group Meetings

Many thanks to those who came to the recent round of Network Meetings in the East and North (West and South – it's your turn next term!) Following consultations at last term's meetings we are launching a new system of more local networks that are intended



to be forums for TAs to get together to see each other's schools, share good ideas, ideas and resources, ask each other for information, arrange local training opportunities etc.

So far initial meetings have been held in Welwyn/Hatfield, Royston, Letchworth, Hitchin, Ware, Bishops Stortford and Stevenage. Next term we will be attending network group meetings in St Albans, Tring, Watford,



Potters Bar, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamstead and Rickmansworth.

Some colleagues have said that they have valued the “mini-training” sessions that we have run in the past, so we will continue to organise those on an occasional basis. If you have any suggestions for short sharp sessions please contact Nicola.

Helpful Websites

In the next issue of the TA Newsletter we are planning to publish details of websites of use to teaching assistants. If you would like to recommend a good (educational) website please email nicola.suckling@hertscc.gov.uk. For example, www.sparklebox.co.uk was widely recommended by one network group as being a good source of pictures, signs etc.



New Colleagues

Recently we welcomed Nicola Suckling as the new TA Administrator. Nicola brings some much needed youth and energy to the office and can be contacted on 01582 830 238 or nicola.suckling@hertscc.gov.uk.

TA Management Database

We are hoping to establish a database of colleagues who have management responsibility for teaching assistants to make communication much more direct than at present. To this end we have emailed all schools at their admin addresses; however, to date we have only had responses from about 40% of schools. We would therefore be most grateful if someone could find out whether this has been done and email Nicola if not. If you're in doubt, please email her anyway; we'd rather have two responses than none!

Support Staff Newsletter

A newsletter for support staff who are not teaching assistants is being developed and will be in schools in the Spring term. You might like to flag this up with your colleagues so they keep an eye out for it.

Display Co-ordinators

If your school has a really good display co-ordinator who would be willing to pass on their skills to others please let us know – we would like to run some courses for teaching assistants who are responsible for displays.

Websites

The Teaching Assistant and Higher Level Teaching Assistant websites have moved to bring them together as part of the overall School Workforce Development Team website. If you go to the previous address you should be automatically re-directed, but the new addresses are as follows:

www.thegrid.org.uk/schoolworkforce/supportstaff/ta (Teaching Assistants)

www.thegrid.org.uk/schoolworkforce/supportstaff/hlta (Higher Level Teaching Assistants)

HLTA Corner

HLTA Conference



Following its success in 2005, the HLTA Conference returned this year by popular demand with over 80 delegates attending. This year HLTAs heard a key note speech by Simon Cooper-Hind which ran for the entire morning session. This innovation enabled Simon to explore his themes in more detail, and proved popular with delegates so we plan to continue this format next year.

The date for your diary is
**Monday 15
October 2007.**



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following who have recently achieved HLTA status:



Terri Adcock Cassiobury Infant & Nursery
Julia Blanshard St Joan of Arc Catholic School
Sally Deacon Hartsbourne Primary School
Elaine Kell Hertford Heath Primary School
Lisa Pearlman Berrygrove Primary School
Caroline Penn Central Primary School
Lisa Pratchett Knutsford School
Margaret Miller Roebuck Primary School
Celia Farley Roebuck Primary School
Jacqueline Gaitely Meryfield School
Nicola Vicary Ponsbourne St Mary's JMI School

CPD Opportunity: TAs Working With Gifted and Talented Pupils

Jeremy Reynolds, Adviser for Gifted and Talented pupils, is working with us to develop a course for TAs who work with more able pupils. This 2½ day course, spread over 2 terms, will contain some input from Jeremy but there will also be a major opportunity to plan and execute a short programme of work with gifted and talented pupils in your school. Centrally funded for HLTAs, £50 for all others. Please find further details on www.thegrid.org.uk/schoolworkforce/supportstaff/hlta or phone Debra Parsall.

Do You Need to Contact Us?

**DEBRA
PARSALL**

**HLTA Co-ordinator
(01582 830107)**

debra.parsall@hertscc.gov.uk

**NICOLA
SUCKLING**

**Teaching Assistant & CPD
Administrator
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Spring Courses 2007

| DfES 4-Day Induction Courses for Newly Appointed TAs | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Primary | Hertfordshire Development Centre | 27 Feb/ 2 Mar / 8 Mar / 16 Mar | 06SUP/061P |
| Senior TA Network Group Meeting | | | |
| All | Hertfordshire Development Centre | Thurs 22 Feb | 06SUP/060A |
| Intro to Numeracy | | | |
| Primary | Hertfordshire Development Centre | Weds 14 Mar | 06SUP/065P |
| Intro to Literacy | | | |
| Primary | Hertfordshire Development Centre | Weds 21 Mar | 06SUP/067P |
| Intro for New TAs | | | |
| Primary | Hertfordshire Development Centre | Thurs 1 Mar | 06SUP/062P |
| Behaviour Management for Teaching Assistants | | | |
| Primary | Ware Priory, Ware | Weds 17 Jan | 06SUP/058P |
| Meeting the Challenge of SEN | | | |
| Primary | Novotel, Stevenage | Thur 15 Mar | 06SUP/070P |
| Assessment & Report Writing | | | |
| All | Novotel, Stevenage | Thur 25 Jan | 06SUP/059A |
| ICT | | | |
| All | Hertfordshire Development Centre | Fri 9 Mar | 06SUP/068A |
| TOP Dance | | | |
| Primary | Hertfordshire Development Centre | Tues 20 Mar | 06SUP/066P |
| TOP Games | | | |
| Primary | Hertfordshire Development Centre | Tues 13 Mar | 06SUP/064P |
| Communicating Effectively & Sensitive with Pupils to Support their Learning | | | |
| All | Novotel, Stevenage | Thur 22 Mar | 06SUP/071A |
| Planning | | | |
| All | Novotel, Stevenage | Thur 1 Mar | 06SUP/063A |
| NVQ Start Session for TAs – linked to gaining HLTA status | | | |
| All | Hertfordshire Development Centre | Tues 30 Jan | 06SUP/074A |

Look out for further TA courses during the spring term

All courses can be booked online at www.thegrid.org.uk/info/training.

To apply on-line you will need your school number and a PIN number which are available from your Headteacher.