

School of Education

# PGCE Partnership Newsletter

## School Direct Recruitment

St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy held an extremely successful Open Evening to recruit to its Primary School Direct PGCE in November 2014. Over 50 potential new recruits for the School Direct Programme for 2015/2016 attended the event which was held in the school hall. Along with teaching staff, five School Direct students on the current 2014/2015 programme attended to enthusiastically discuss the course with potential new recruits. As a result of this initiative and others, St Thomas More have successfully filled their allocation of places for 2015/16 – a feat also achieved by Church Langton, who have also recruited additional numbers.

Open evenings have proved to be particularly productive means of transforming interest from applicants to recruits. Once the challenge of marketing the event has been met, the task of convincing potential applicants is one that current students are very adept at achieving. University of Leicester PGCE tutors are always available to attend these events to talk about the course and discuss individual issues with potential applicants. The University has monthly 'Routes into Teaching' events, attended by University Tutors and School Direct partners alike. These events have been well attended and are an excellent opportunity for potential applicants to find out more about the various options available. The next 'Routes into Teaching' University PGCE recruitment event is on March 19 with details available at [www2.le.ac.uk/departments/education/pgce/routes-into-teaching-events](http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/education/pgce/routes-into-teaching-events)

## From School Direct to NQT – the 'TELA Experience'

Being a successful candidate for a position on the School Direct training scheme through the Thomas Estley Learning Alliance meant that I was quickly involved in school life; I attended a range of events at the school before I even started my placement which enabled me to 'hit the ground running' in Phase A and learn as much as possible. The first day I walked through the door people knew my name, greeted me with a smile and wanted to support me. Phase B was also in a TELA partnership school; even though I was facing a new challenge, the continuity of the alliance meant that I felt more comfortable when I began. I had hoped that an opportunity for employment would arise through School Direct, something which the programme aims for but cannot guarantee; after what felt like months of hoping, a job came up and I was (thankfully) the successful candidate.

Having been involved with TELA before has meant that the transition from PGCE to NQT was seamless. I had extra confidence in the ways of the school thanks to my placements and already knew staff and pupils. So far the year has been a pleasure – I've been lucky enough to have been judged as outstanding five times so far this year, I'm taking a trip to London for 60 year 7 pupils, I've been leading training for this year's School Direct students and getting involved with a range of other TELA projects such as the Working Together project to support underachieving boys. My marking has been used as an example for other staff and I have been developing our new Key Stage 4 scheme of work alongside my department. I'm really grateful for the high quality training I received from the University and Thomas Estley Learning Alliance which has facilitated such an enjoyable and varied NQT year.

*Hayley Briggs, PGCE (University of Leicester)*





## Putting the NQT year into perspective

The School of Education held a highly successful NQT Conference on January 15th 2015 at Stamford Court. The conference, for both Primary and Secondary Newly Qualified Teachers, attracted attendees from far across the region including teachers from Derbyshire, Northamptonshire and a wide variety of schools in Leicestershire and Leicester City. They all participated with great enthusiasm in a packed day that featured a range of workshops, keynotes and networking opportunities to share thoughts on developing practice with new colleagues and PGCE alumni.

The two keynote speakers Matthew Burton, pictured above with Sue Dymoke and Sue Davis, and Alan Newland provided inspiring and thought-provoking insights. Matthew Burton, Assistant Head at Thornhill Academy and a star from the popular Channel 4 documentary 'Educating Yorkshire', talked about how individual teachers can motivate pupils

and how to build a shared vision within the school community. In his witty and interactive speech he focused on the importance of literacy across the curriculum and developing the capacity to be creative in addressing the many priorities that NQTs are faced with. One NQT commented: **"it made me think a lot about my ethos in the classroom. Humorous and insightful, put the year into perspective."** Another said it was **"fantastic and inspiring"**. Alan Newland, senior advisor to the DfE, spoke about the professional and ethical issues in teaching. He provoked lively discussion about the challenges that teachers must face in the crossover between their personal and professional lives.

Conference delegates also participated in workshops led by head teachers, School of Education staff and curriculum leaders from the region on topics including pupil progress, outstanding teaching, the NQT year, behaviour management and

diversity. Primary NQTs and Secondary subject specialists were able to share their own developing good practice with colleagues. Their verdict on the event was that it was an overwhelming success both in terms of the conference sessions and the venue. Feedback comments included: **"lots of ideas to put in place tomorrow!"**; **"Excellent halal and inclusive food; by far the best I've had!"** and **"It was a really enjoyable day and very valuable in terms of sharing practice. Thank you!"**

We would like to thank all the NQTs, our speakers, workshop leaders and Stamford Court staff for making the conference such an engaging and welcoming experience. We now intend to make the cross-phase NQT conference an annual event. Details about next year's conference will be available in late Spring.

*Sue Dymoke and Sue Davis*  
sd100@le.ac.uk and sd207@le.ac.uk



# School Direct – looking toward the PGCE cohort for 2016/17

The University of Leicester will be hosting a conference on the morning of April 22, 2015 at the Stamford Court Conference Centre in Oadby. The meeting is intended as a platform to review the work of the Partnership to deliver the PGCE (both Primary and Secondary courses) through School Direct to the current cohort of students and successfully recruit towards the 2015/16 cohort with the aim of learning from our experiences to allow for successful bids for allocations of students for 2016/17.

The University of Leicester PGCE is now successfully offered directly through the University and via an increasing number of School Direct Lead Schools and SCITTs. This meeting will attempt to capture and disseminate the best practice the Partnership has to offer allowing us to plan from a growing position of strength.

The conference, running from 9am to 1:30 to include refreshments and lunch, is free to all Partnership schools.

Existing and prospective School Direct Lead Schools are strongly encouraged to attend, sending two representatives if you are bidding for both Primary and Secondary PGCE numbers.

If you currently host SD placements, or would like to, or you are considering the possibility of either bidding for SD PGCE places in your own name or would like to work with an existing Lead School, then this conference will provide you with much needed background information and insight into the SD process and the course as a whole.

To book your place, please go to: <https://leicester.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/2015-school-direct-conference>

1C	Step 1 - Y1	7	1C
1B	Step 2 - Y1	9	1B
1A	Achieved - Y1	11	1A
2C	Step 1 - Y2	13	2C
2B	Step 2 - Y2	15	2B
2A	Achieved - Y2	17	2A
2A+	Achieved - Y3	23	2A+
		24	2A+

## Primary Assessment – the ‘Symphony System’

The Symphony Primary Schools Partnership was set up in 2012 in order to provide for school-to-school support by functioning through a model of ‘System Leadership’. The Partnership, currently of 14 schools serving over 3000 children, is designed to meet the combined needs of non-academies and academies alike.

With the removal of National Curriculum Levels, teachers and leaders must ensure that they can measure and demonstrate pupil attainment and progress in the new era. The schools in the Partnership have worked together to develop age-related expectations in all subjects. Furthermore, we have developed a simple and effective method for non-core subject leaders to analyse achievement across the whole school.

All schools played an active part in this process. Pairs and small groups of subject leaders have spent many hours together, defining the age-related expectations.

**For further details:**  
**e:** [symphony.schools@outlook.com](mailto:symphony.schools@outlook.com)  
**w:** [www.newcroft-primary-school.co.uk/curriculum/assessment](http://www.newcroft-primary-school.co.uk/curriculum/assessment) (*information about the system can be downloaded*)

A symposium is being held on May 5th at the Holiday Inn, Crick NN6 7XR to explore the materials and consider evidence of their impact. Please email [office@newcroft.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@newcroft.leics.sch.uk) for further details – bookings by April 13 to allow time for you to prepare materials to bring with you.

## MFL 6th Form Experience

On Friday 6th February, MFL PGCE students visited Ashby School for Sixth Form Day. During the visit we were able to observe and experience the teaching of Post-16 French lessons, as well as discussing how mark schemes are developed, and how students are prepared for their exams. Staff and students alike were extremely kind and generous with their time: Year 13 students chatted with us, sharing their experiences and giving tips on how they like to be taught languages at Post-16, whilst staff kindly let us observe them teaching and talked us through their resources. Everyone has taken something positive from the visit and we would like to thank Nick Fitzpatrick, Fiona McCafferty, Sam Lucien, Sylvia Fernandes, and their students, for the opportunity.

Alice O'Driscoll, Secondary PGCE MFL group





## Dr Sue Dymoke publishes new book to inspire young people to engage with poetry

Dr Sue Dymoke Secondary PGCE Course Co-leader, released her highly anticipated book, *Making Poetry Happen: Transforming the Poetry Classroom*, on 29 January 2015. The book, produced in collaboration with international poetry researchers and English teachers from the region, is expected to have a lasting impact on how poetry is taught in schools.

Sue explained: "It aims to build young people and teachers' confidence in the genre by strengthening their relationship with poetry on page or screen, in mind or ear."

The book is a follow up to *Making Poetry Matter: International Research on Poetry Pedagogy*, and is published by Bloomsbury [www.bloomsbury.com/uk/making-poetry-happen-9781472510266](http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/making-poetry-happen-9781472510266)

## Planning your CPD for 2015/16

The University of Leicester and the Teaching Schools it works in partnership with, are well placed to provide your school, your teachers, technicians and teaching assistants with the professional development they need.

### Classroom and school-based research activity:

The University offers conferences such as *'Enquiry-based Teaching and Learning: Generating a research-based culture in schools'*. Please contact:

**Professor David Pedder**

t: 0116 229 7505 e: [dp243@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:dp243@leicester.ac.uk)

### Masters' level courses to support school development:

**Learning and Teaching** – a range of campus-based modules each focusing on different aspects of classroom study leading towards the MA Education: Learning and Teaching (discounts are available for teachers working in Partnership schools). Please contact:

**Sue Forsythe**

e: [skf6@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:skf6@leicester.ac.uk)

**Educational Leadership** – a distance learning course developed to support the school leader working within their own school. Please contact:

**Alison Taysum**

e: [ast11@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:ast11@leicester.ac.uk)

### Professional Development

**opportunities:** Education CPD+ provides a range of courses, conferences and training events as well as commissioning provision to meet your bespoke needs. Please contact:

e: [educationcpd@le.ac.uk](mailto:educationcpd@le.ac.uk)

Details can be found at [www2.le.ac.uk/departments/education/cpd-for-teachers](http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/education/cpd-for-teachers)

### Teaching Schools within the Partnership:

- Affinity TSA  
[www.affinitytsa.co.uk](http://www.affinitytsa.co.uk)
- Ashfield School  
[www.ashfield.leicester.sch.uk/teaching-school/professional-development.html](http://www.ashfield.leicester.sch.uk/teaching-school/professional-development.html)
- Ashlawn School  
[www.ashlawn.org.uk/teaching-school](http://www.ashlawn.org.uk/teaching-school)
- Brooke Weston TSA  
[www.brookewestonteachingschool.org](http://www.brookewestonteachingschool.org)
- Denbigh TSA  
[www.denbighteachingschoolalliance.net](http://www.denbighteachingschoolalliance.net)
- Forest Way TSA  
[www.forestway.leics.sch.uk/fwtsa](http://www.forestway.leics.sch.uk/fwtsa)
- Rushey Mead  
[www.rusheymead-sec.leicester.sch.uk](http://www.rusheymead-sec.leicester.sch.uk)
- TELA  
[www.thomasestley.org.uk/training/tela-continual-professional-development](http://www.thomasestley.org.uk/training/tela-continual-professional-development)
- Thrusington CE Primary  
[stepteachingschool.co.uk/training-cpd/](http://stepteachingschool.co.uk/training-cpd/)

## Contact us

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## 3 to 8s Maths Forum 2015

Are you a teacher working with children in F1, F2 or years 1, 2 or 3? Join our free meetings and share ideas about enjoyable methods of learning and teaching in mathematics.

Our meetings for 2015 are on Wednesday 22nd April and Tuesday 9th June, both from 1:30 to 4pm at the School of Education. Led by Dr Rose Griffiths, we'll be compiling a Leicester counting book and trying out different ways of using equipment.

If you would like to join us, please email [educationcpd@le.ac.uk](mailto:educationcpd@le.ac.uk) and ask to be added to the 3 to 8s contact list, giving us the name of your school.

### For more information

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