



Partnership News

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 14th edition of our termly newsletter.

I hope the new academic year has started well in your school. I have to admit that I've found the first three weeks of my headship quite busy but so far so good. I know that Chris Healy was immensely proud of the work that partnership did together and I am very keen that it should continue to develop and evolve. There is so much to be gained from working with one another and collaborating freely in a common cause.

Last year saw yet another packed program with some of the stand out events being the development of the Literacy network, the introduction of a middle leader's forum and the continued success of the Pastoral Care conference. There was continued superb attendance of the subject forums with the geography and MfL conferences in the summer term being particularly well attended. It is also important to highlight yet again the success of the NQT network, last year 15 NQT's enjoyed the program on offer and really benefitted from cross school and phase support from NQTs across the partnership. The Maths Hub is another real highlight and I would like to once again pay tribute to the work of Steve Lomax and his team.

All of the regular events will be in the 2016-17 program but this year we have some exciting plans to launch a KS2/3 Transition group. Quite how this will develop will be determined by those in attendance but, without question, the challenges that our primary colleagues have faced over the past two years with changes to assessment and the curriculum will be a major focus for discussion. I am convinced that if we are to meet the challenges of a changing KS4 curriculum we must look to improve transition and progress at KS3. Working with primary schools is clearly the place to start.

The planning for the fifth Annual conference on the 25th November is almost complete and we will be issuing detailed information on all the workshops very soon. We are delighted that David Didau and Professor Robert Coe will be the keynote speakers on the theme of 'How do we know learning is happening?' We have been overwhelmed by the offers of support from colleagues across the partnership and I am sure when you see the full program you will be keen to send as many staff as possible

Finally I think we should be open to discussions amongst our schools over the future of education more generally. The development of MATs, the proposal to increase selection and the challenges surrounding school funding are all areas that we will be discussing separately. I don't see any harm in us discussing them together and perhaps, where appropriate, coordinating a joint response.

I wish you well for the term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Burke

If you would like to book places for your colleagues on any of the non-maths activities please contact Nicki Harrington. Her email address is: njh@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk Details on how to book onto any of the maths events are given below each event. If you would like any more information about the events or the partnership in general, contact Liz Hunt. Her email address is: eh@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

NQT Programme (Cross Phase)

Date: September 22nd, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Venue: The George Hotel, Cheltenham

All NQTs across the partnership, both primary and secondary, are invited to take part in the NQT programme which seeks to support the existing provision within schools.

Session 1: The classroom

A chance for NQTs across the partnership to meet and in particular to focus on the following areas:

- Getting the atmosphere right
- Engaging lessons
- Literacy in every classroom
- Some scenarios

6th Form Network (Secondary)

Date: Monday October 17th, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Venue: Balcarras School

The network has gone from strength to strength this year with three full meetings and a CPD event held in the summer term. We have had "sharing sessions" where sixth form leadership teams have had the chance to work with one another on sharing ideas and best practice, a presentation from Pearson on KS5 reforms and their implications, and a session all about Level 3 Core Maths. The most significant outcome this year has been the collaboration this group has brought between the local sixth forms, the communication between teams is frequent and there is a very united view on many issues facing sixth forms and post-16.

MFL Network (Secondary)

Date: Thursday November 10th, 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Venue: Balcarras School

This year has seen 2 network meetings and a subject conference. We are grateful to Stuart, for his continuing leadership of the network. We were delighted to welcome John Halksworth as our speaker this year at the subject conference, a Senior Examiner for AQA in Spanish, and author of several of the new materials that have come onto the market in support of the new specifications for GCSE. The MFL network has been an invaluable link for many of us as we prepare for the new GCSE and AS/A level specifications. We look forward to continuing to support each other next year: a year which sees dramatic change in the field of Modern Foreign Languages.

Annual Teaching Conference (Cross Phase)

Date: Friday November 25th, 8.30am – 1.30pm

Venue: Balcarras School

This year's teaching conference is entitled:

How do we know that learning is taking place?

We are delighted to announce that we have two prestigious keynote speakers at this year's conference. **David Didau** 'The Learning Spy' and **Professor Robert Coe**, Head of Durham University's Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring.

After the introductions, we have 11 exciting sessions to choose from, including Dominic Salles' talk about his new book, *The Slightly Awesome Teacher*. We also have sessions on autism, literacy and KS2 grammar.

The sessions are free to members of the Balcarras Teaching Partnership or £120 for the whole day, including two main speakers, two sessions and refreshments. To book a place, contact njh@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

More details to follow at <http://www.balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk/Teaching-School>

KS2/3 Transition focus group (Cross Phase)

Date: Wednesday November 9th, 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Venue: Balcarras Library

Session 1: Setting the agenda

Colleagues from the Primary and Secondary phase are invited to this launch meeting of our new KS2/3 Transition group.

The changes to the KS2 Curriculum and assessment has been monumental and so we hope that this group can act to ensure a smooth transition for all pupils and teachers.

Areas that we might focus on are...

- How to inform and up-skill teachers in the secondary sector of the changes to assessment and SPaG and Numeracy requirements
- How to deal with the perceived 'dip' into Year 7.
- Pastoral issues
- Transition issues
- Cross Checking of the curriculum delivery in other areas of the curriculum
- Catering for pupils with SEND.

The agenda is very open to input from the group themselves and we hope that it will lead to the opportunity for cross visits into schools in both phases.

English Network Meeting (Secondary)

Date: Tuesday October 4th, 2.00pm – 4.40pm

Venue: Balcarras School

The focus of this training, which will run on 4th October from 2pm - 4.40pm, is to engage with the mark scheme and the mark scheme engagement materials for AQA English Language units 1 and 2 and to highlight the approaches to take with teaching and learning in order to maximise student achievement on these units.

The course will consider the development of reading skills in particular. The afternoon will be led by Jane Davies who has run previous AQA exam events and is very experienced in the specific assessment objectives for this key GCSE qualification.

Day workshop for KS2 teachers: Learn how to invigorate your teaching of South America at Key Stage 2

Date: Wednesday January 18th, 9.30am – 2.30pm

Venue: Balcarras School

Come and join us (Sarah Shaw and Emma Espley, both experienced teachers and freelance consultants, and Kathryn Minchew, a former MasterChef semi-finalist and now professional chef) for a day of inspiration, creativity and fun!

Discover how to put together a memorable, cross-curricular workshop for your Key Stage 2 pupils or gain innovative, practical ideas for a series of lessons in order to revitalise and extend your study of South America. The intention is to target several curriculum areas (with a particular emphasis on literacy, geography, history, computing, dance, drama, music, science and D & T), in addition to the SMSC strand and school's values curriculum. It is hoped that you will leave feeling suitably confident and creative to design and deliver a cross-curricular workshop or series of lessons and ensure effective learning for pupils in your school.

South America (going beyond Brazil; based on the texts, 'Mia's Story' by Michael Foreman and 'Blue Frog' by Holly Stone-Barker and Dianne de Las Casas and incorporating activities relating to Chile, the Mayans and Aztecs, the legend of chocolate, exploring native foods and making ceviche and salsa. You will rotate around three 'stations', honing your skills in different curriculum areas in the process).

Mathematics News

GLOWMaths, Mastery and Mindset (Cross Phase)

Date: Monday October 17th, 9.00am – 4.00pm
Venue: Kingsholm Stadium (Gloucester Rugby)

Keynotes from Dr Debbie Morgan, Dr Helen Drury and Liam Colclough.

To book a place, please go online: www.glowmathshub.com/events

Y4/5 Enrichment day (Primary)

Date: Friday December 9th, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Balcarras School

Schools can register their teams of four pupils by emailing Jo Newman
jmn@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

POWWOWs (Cross Phase)

Dates: Monday December 12th (**Primary**) & Wednesday December 14th December (**Secondary**)

Venue: Balcarras School, Pavilion

School based meetings for leaders and teachers to network and discuss a single focus.

GLOWMaths Primary POWWOW

12 Dec 2016 Focus: Leading and Assessing for Mastery

GLOWMaths Secondary POWWOW

14 Dec 2016 Focus: The new GCSE - what now for Year 11?

Note: All the major exam boards will be presenting at this meeting.

To book a place, please go online: www.glowmathshub.com/events

