

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 1st December

Dates for the diary

Additional Heads' Forum – Tue 5th Dec 8am-11am @ Pastoral Centre

Sheffield SCITT Annual Headteacher/ITT Coordinator Event – Fri 8th Dec 10-12 @ St Catherine's – Please see the note in the notices below

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Advent Reflection

As we head into the first week of Advent, I wanted to share this reflection that I came across.

[Arts & Faith: Advent—First Sunday Imaginative Prayer Exercise \(Cycle B\) - Ignatian Spirituality](#)

The link takes you to a 3 minute video and a suggested reflection exercise, which I found helpful just to create a bit of room for prayer at the start of the day. I share it in the hope it is helpful to you as well.

Heads' Forum

I have had a couple of other responses from Heads' who can't make the additional Forum on 5th December, but it looks like the majority can attend, so we will go ahead. The agenda for the meeting is attached at the end of this bulletin.

Writing Moderation

Just a reminder that writing moderation will be taking place again across our family of schools on the following dates/times:

Thu 8th Feb F2/Y1/Y2 Writing Moderation 1-4pm

Thu 22nd Feb Y3/Y4 Writing Moderation 1-4pm

Thu 7th Mar Y5/Y6 Writing Moderation 1-4pm

I will be meeting with the team who are planning the moderation early in the new year and additional details (venues, plan for the moderation, etc) will be confirmed and shared at that time. For now, however, please do make sure you plan for relevant staff to attend. The feedback from last years' events was very positive and out of those events came our EYFS and writing mini-conferences from which is coming some other really helpful developments.

Notices

Sheffield SCITT Annual Headteacher/ITT Coordinator Event

Thank you to those of you that have already responded via the weekly SCITT bulletin.

A final reminder about our annual Sheffield SCITT Headteacher/ITT Coordinator event.

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This is taking place on Friday 8th Dec, 10-12 at St Catherine's Primary School Sheffield.

We used to hold this event on an annual basis, but as with many things, this stopped during COVID.

We are resurrecting this, and are using next week's event as an opportunity to meet together as a partnership of schools to explore two important issues that will impact us all to a greater or lesser extent:

The recruitment challenges we are facing as a sector and what we can proactively do as a group of schools involved within ITT to help address this.

The changes to Initial Teacher Training that the DfE are mandating from September 2024. These changes affect all providers. We have been preparing for these changes for some time now and want to share with partnership schools more detailed plans for what these adaptations to our course will look like in practice. It is important that you have time to consider the implications (both the opportunities and challenges) and to ask any questions/provide feedback that helps develop our approach.

Please could you respond to Emma at admin@sheffieldscitt.org.uk to confirm whether or not you will be able to attend. We will be providing some sandwiches – if you have any dietary requirements please also let Emma know.

Items from previous bulletins for reference

School Experiences and Internships

Our SCITT has asked us to help their ongoing recruitment by sharing the Twitter link below which invites people to arrange a school experience day at Notre Dame or St Catherine's before Christmas. It also has details about how to apply for the paid internships this summer for maths, physics, chemistry, MFL and computer science (£900 for 3 weeks experience in one of our partner schools this June/July)

<https://x.com/SheffieldSCITT/status/1722266622533284225?s=20>

Writing Conference

Thank you for enabling your English leads to attend our half day conference on writing. On everyone's behalf, I really want to thank Claire Round, Lauren McKay and Jonathan Lear for planning and running the conference.

This was done in response to requests and questions that emerged from last year's writing moderation and I thought the quality of the input and the conversation it provoked was excellent. We have asked participants to respond to evaluation, which includes thinking about next steps as there were some themes that we can definitely do more on together. Themes that emerged included a need to be more accurate further down school in assessment of Greater depth, and work we could do collectively to help support that. There was also really good conversation about what really matters most at each stage in the writing curriculum and the potential for us to work more closely on this.

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Please do talk with your English leads about what they got from the conference and about the next steps that they would find helpful in supporting them in their work.

Heads' Forum

5th December 2023 8-11am – Hallam Pastoral Centre

Agenda

We will meet for an opening prayer and breakfast at 8am, allowing some time for us to check in with each other as we agreed at the Heads' Conference. Remember, being with one another is work!

Other business

1. Opportunity from Pete Sides – Dyscalculia project
2. Process for approval of recruitment
3. Update on Heads' Report & work with MatPad
4. Update on SEND and Inclusion surveys
5. Feedback from EYFS and Writing conferences – possible next steps
6. Look ahead to next term
7. Items from Heads