

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 26th Jan

Dates for the diary

- 30th Jan – Heads' Forum – 8-10.30am @ Pastoral Centre (Revised time)
- 31st Jan – Dyscalculia Work Group Session 1 – 1.30-4pm
- 7th Feb – Subject Leaders' Meetings – 3.45-4.45pm via Teams
- 8th Feb – F2/Y1/Y2 writing moderation 2.30 - 4pm
- **20th Feb – Additional Heads' meeting (EYFS and Maths support) 9.30-11.30**
- 22nd Feb – Y3/Y4 writing moderation 2.30 - 4pm
- 28th Feb – Business Manager meeting 10-2pm
- 5th March – Meeting with Heads and Business Managers 9.30 – 12.30
- 7th Mar – Y5/Y6 writing moderation 2.30 - 4pm

Actions from previous Bulletin

- **Dyscalculia work group** – respond to Anita's email asking for confirmation of staff attending
- **Subject Leader Meetings (7th Feb)** – Primary schools – please make sure that all of your subject leaders have a copy of the information for the next set of virtual meetings
- **Writing moderation events** – Primary schools – please respond to the information sent out by Anita to confirm which staff will be attending the moderation events.

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Heads' Forum 30th Jan – Change to times

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Heads' Forum on Tuesday. As noted in last week's bulletin, the main business will be some time to unpick the information that has come out of the SEND and inclusion surveys and focus groups. We will also look at practical steps.

I will also give a brief overview of the information you've shared through the school improvement capacity forms and look ahead to the budget process that this work will help to inform. We will be finished in time for those of us who are booked onto the Cynefin workshop to get there.

Dyscalculia work group – Wed 31st Jan 1.30-4pm

Thanks to all the schools who have committed to support this work and thanks to everyone who has responded to Anita to share contact details for the people involved.

In this first session, the group will:

Develop a better understanding of Dyscalculia in learners.

Explore the latest available expertise and research.

Consider the impact of Dyscalculia and Maths Anxiety on learning and learners

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Writing Fundamentals: Building a shared understanding of the fundamental aspects of writing from Y1 to Y6

Introductory session: Headteachers, Senior leaders, Writing leads, Key Stage leads

Following the successful writing conference in November, there was a clear desire from the schools who attended to look at developing a shared understanding of writing fundamentals within each year group. This session will revisit the key themes from the conference around curriculum expectation and assessment frameworks in order to establish a shared vision for the Trust.

The introductory session will be followed by further sessions, initially for KS1 colleagues from across the Trust. The aim of these sessions will be to work collaboratively to develop clearly specified end points for Year one and Year two, leading to the development of an agreed assessment framework.

The introductory session will be run twice to provide flexibility with dates:

8th March 2024: 9am – 10am

27th March 2024: 9am – 10am

Sessions are at St Catherine's, please book places [here](#).

Primary Computing Support

Please find attached with this bulletin some information from York, East & South Yorkshire computing hubs highlighting the free support that is available for primary schools with the computing curriculum. If this is an area where you know some support would be helpful, I recommend that you take a moment to check the flyer and follow some of the links.

Notices

[Request from University of Sheffield to trial resources for teaching children about rights and the law](#)

We are looking for schools to work with us at the University of Sheffield on our research project FORTITUDE (<https://sites.google.com/sheffield.ac.uk/fortitude>) which focuses on children and young people's understanding of their rights and the law.

We have developed a game in collaboration with children and young people that can be used in educational settings to teach them about rights and responsibilities.

We are now looking to evaluate it formally in partnership with a wide range of schools across England. A flyer with more information can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3NVaD64>.

We will also be running some online information/Q&A sessions in January and February 2024.

If you would like to find out more or are interested in taking part, please email fortitude@sheffield.ac.uk or you can contact Professor Dawn Watkins, directly at d.watkins@sheffield.ac.uk (Tel. 0114 222 6827).

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Items from previous bulletins for reference

Subject Leader Meetings – 7th Feb

Anita has sent out the information, including the links for each of the virtual subject leader meetings, a document that gives details of times and what will be covered in the discussions and also a set of proposals for what we do in response to the things that were shared at the first set of network meetings earlier in the year.

Anita has sent these to Heads and also direct to subject leaders, where we have their contact details. Please do make sure that all your subject leaders have got the information, that you have a staff meeting planned on 7th Feb and that everyone is able to access the virtual meetings on the night.

Writing Moderation

Anita has also sent out details of the writing moderation which starts in the last week of this half term. She has sent out a summary of each moderation event, time and location, what will be covered during the moderation and what teachers need to bring.

Again, please do make sure that teachers have the information and please do all you can to enable your staff to take part. Anita has asked for confirmation of attendance, so please do let her know ASAP which staff will be attending each of the events from your school.

Authority to recruit form <https://forms.office.com/e/UZ6X2aD8tL>

Just a reminder that if you are planning any recruitment, even if it is a like for like replacement, we need you to complete the form at the link above.

Adnan, Alison and I will meet every Monday morning and review any of these requests that have come in over the previous week in order to authorise them as quickly as possible.

Just to remind you that this is an extra measure that we are putting in this year to make sure that we don't miss any opportunities to address staffing needs in a different way as we develop work across the Trust. This is part of our approach to tackle staff costs which are rising faster than grant income and also to help us to build up a Trust wide picture of recruitment to inform longer term strategy for how we can help.