

Ipswich Opportunity Area Summer Term Newsletter

Edition 3 – February 2019

Ipswich



Introduction

We would like to open with a very big thank you to all schools and colleges in the Ipswich Opportunity Area who have worked with us over the last year. We have developed and implemented some very exciting initiatives and we could not do this without your support.

In this edition of our newsletter you will see a glimpse of some of these projects as the programme moves firmly into the delivery phase.

If you want to find out more about the programme and how your school or college can benefit, contact Programme Manager Katrina Gardiner on k.gardiner@uos.ac.uk and don't forget to visit our website for more detailed information [here](#).

Vision

All young people in Ipswich are happy, confident, ambitious and flexible lifelong learners.

We want to ensure all young people can fulfil their potential and access the opportunities available to them regardless of their background.

KEY

Funding



Get involved



Priority 1: Skills to learn



Communication Champion training

Our **Communication Champion** training, delivered by the National Literacy Trust and supported by Easy Peasy, has been running since last term and has proved to be beneficial for Early Years practitioners. Don't forget that the Ipswich Opportunity Area will fully fund two members of staff from your nursery class and your reception class to take part in this.

There are only a few dates remaining.

Please contact Jemma Hudson, Early Years Lead, for more information on this opportunity: jemma.hudson@suffolk.gov.uk



Launching our resilience work

We are pleased to announce that we are working with UCL to support two cohorts of ten schools to develop facilitated whole school approaches or Supporting Wellbeing Emotional Resilience and Learning (SWERL). SWERL is a knowledge-exchange programme bringing together research and practitioner expertise to develop a whole school approach to wellbeing and mental health. Each school who participates in this programme will receive an additional grant of up to £10,000 to implement their approaches.

The first cohort of 10 schools will commence after half term with the second cohort starting in June.

If you would like to find out more or if you wish for your school to be considered as part of one of the two cohorts, please contact Programme Manager, Katrina Gardiner on k.gardiner@uos.ac.uk



Priority 2: Strengthen the teaching profession in Ipswich by providing world-class support and development

Leadership Programme

The leadership development programme has been designed to support senior education leaders to develop and consolidate the skills they need to run a high performing and effective school. Delivered by the University of Bath and supported by CUREE for supplementary coaching, the programme started in October and will run until June offering two fully funded places per school and one per Multi-Academy Trust.

The offer is four day-long modules of education in the subjects of strategic leadership, financial leadership, HR leadership and resilience in leadership and it is reinforced by three professional sessions for participants who enrol on at least two of the taught modules.

The MBA-level programme is designed to deliver on an Opportunity Area vision for all young people in Ipswich to be happy, confident, ambitious and flexible lifelong learners.



Leadership Programme

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By strengthening their leadership skills and deepening their understanding of practices in the commercial sector, the programme aims to enhance senior educators' confidence in their ability to create an effective working environment within their settings, allowing schools and colleges to thrive and educational professionals to feel valued and supported.

Highly recommended, as well as benefitting from the education offered, participants will also be able to meet regularly for peer support for at least one year after the programme ends. Feedback from educationalists who have already completed modules has been very positive. The lecturers' expertise, their passion for their subject and their ability to fuse the theoretical and the practical have been seen as particular strongpoints - as has been their method of delivery.

Each module has capacity for 24 participants and there are places available on all the remaining modules. Any eligible staff who are interested in learning more about the programme and who may wish to enrol, should contact Charlotte McKnight-Burton, Executive Development Office email: edo@management.bath.ac.uk

To access module dates and apply for your place click [here](#).

Workforce Development programme update

The workforce development programme is going from strength to strength. The Teaching Development Trust forums in schools helped staff to understand the process and the majority of schools took part. The deadline for completion of audits by each participating school is the 14th February and feedback from schools who have been involved in the supported audit process is positive. Please send completed plans to network@tdtrust.org.

"Thank you ... this is going to make such a difference. In the early days I was a little cynical (feeling there were too many hoops to jump through) however, having completed the audit ... this is something we aim to do yearly as it revealed some quite interesting results and made me look at CPD in a much more strategic and effective way. I am therefore happy to say ... that I was wrong ... and this has been a valuable experience."

- Headteacher, Rushmere Primary





Supporting our Recently Qualified Teachers

We have recently contracted with Springfield Teaching Alliance to develop and support networks for NQTs and RQTs in Ipswich. These networks will provide peer to peer support and collaboration for our NQTs across Ipswich. If your school has any NQTs or RQTs or you wish to find out more please contact Louise Everitt at dh.springfieldj@gmail.com for more information on the programme.

One of the aims of the Opportunity Area is for all NQTs (and RQTs) to have access to a fully trained mentor in the first years of their teaching career. CUREE, who wrote the National Framework for research based coaching and mentoring, will be running a Mentoring Training Programme which will provide a great opportunity for some teachers across Ipswich to develop their skills in this area. There are many benefits of becoming a mentor. A key, and often underestimated, benefit is the way mentors can use the experience to accelerate school improvement. In supporting NQTs' early development, mentors see their schools through a fresh pair of eyes enabling objective review and analysis of their own and their colleagues' practise. In introducing new teachers to school policies and approaches, and helping them map these on to new knowledge from initial training, mentors expand their knowledge of what's possible and bring into school up to date evidence about best practice.

The first programme will kick off in the Summer term and more news coming on the details and how to sign up soon.



Springfield TSA
Working and Growing Together



Priority 3: Improve attainment for disadvantaged pupils by embedding evidence-based practice in the teaching of English and Maths



Evidence Based Practice Fund

The Evidence Based Practice Fund, is available for all educational establishments in the Ipswich Opportunity Area, providing funding of up to £25,000 per project with a focus on either increasing attainment in English, Maths, STEM or supporting Transitions.

The final round will open on 25th February closing on 29th March. The Ipswich Research School is available to provide support and guidance on the application and the evidence base available, please see the website [here](#) for more information.

ONE Sixth Form College – STEM Focus – Metacognition

The project currently running at One Sixth Form College is investigating how the development of metacognitive skills can help students to attain more highly. At ONE we are focussing on Biology A-level (Year 12 and Year 13) as well as working with our partnership school, Ormiston Endeavour Academy, who are looking at improving GCSE science grades. From the college's perspective, the funding received has been invaluable to be able to facilitate giving members of the teaching team the necessary time to effectively conduct this project.

To find out more about the project please see our website [here](#).



Facilitating Links

Don't forget funding is available through our Facilitating Links programme, to assist with visiting other education establishments and bring back best practice to the IOA. You can find out more on how to apply [here](#). One group who has benefited from this funding is a group of schools who visited Babington Academy in Leicester to find out more how they can support their Roma children. Kate Hodgetts, Headteacher at St Helens tells us more about the visit:

"I have always been an advocate of working with other schools and sharing workload, ideas and expertise. As part of my NPQH course I wanted to improve the engagement and achievement of Roma pupils within my school. I tried to start a conversation on one of the NPQH Forums, but had no response other than 'What's the difference between a Roma child and any other EAL child?' My response, 'lots!'

"As numbers of Roma pupils increase and little guidance is available in Suffolk, I realised I needed to look further afield if I wanted to find a school that really had an impact. I found such a school in Babington Academy in Leicester and more importantly their Lead Teacher for Ethnic Minority Achievement, Mark Penfold.

"After an email and a few chats on the phone I arranged a visit just before Christmas. I reached out through the IRIS group (Ipswich Roma Inclusion Service) and asked if anyone wanted to join me and had a fairly good response, showing how many schools want to improve in this area. So on 9th December, three lovely ladies from other schools joined me on my visit. Our common aim was to find ways to become more inclusive, engage better with the parents and raise pupil aspirations and attainment. We watched lessons, discussed the schools journey with Mark and shared ideas. We heard about individual pupils successes and met with the inspiring young adults themselves.

"The car journey home was so full of conversation and ideas and hope, we accidentally made an unexpected detour! Mark has now visited Ipswich and met with myself and a small group of leaders to discuss our plans. We are ready to implement our ideas, judge the impact and make a difference."

Individually and as a group we aim to:

- Create visual media induction packs on the school and the role of the parent including legal duties of care.
- To provide bespoke induction, assessment and interventions for each child on entry.
- Celebrate the Roma culture through a joint multi skills performance at a venue in Ipswich – to include performances by the children and members of the local community as well as Roma key note speakers to talk about their successes.

If anyone would like to be part of the project or find out more about Romas I am always happy to help, let's work together.

Email Kate on k.hodgetts@sthelensprimary.net

What a difference a day makes? Answer: a lot!

Working across the IOA we have just completed the pilot 'What a Difference A Day Makes' programme. This programme looked at how much difference an additional 24 hours maths tuition would make to a pupil in Year 11 with their GCSE Maths. The programme showed how an initial idea, collaboration between schools and dedication from both students and teaching staff can make a positive impact. Meeting in the University of Suffolk every Saturday morning for 6 weeks the 75 students consistently applied themselves to weekly sessions culminating in a mock exam. Overall attendance was a massive 81% out of 75 pupils and early results suggest that nearly all participants moved to up a grade or more over the six weeks.

Feedback from participating students was overwhelmingly positive with many feeling more confident by the end and teachers from participating schools noticed an overall increase in confidence from the group that extended beyond their studies in maths.

We are now looking to extend this programme further running three more 6 week cohorts and also expanding into English. If you wish for your school to take part, please email Katrina on k.gardiner@uos.ac.uk to find out more.

Priority 4: Inspire and equip young people with the skills and guidance they need to pursue an ambitious career pathway

Primary World of Work Project

We set out in our delivery plan our ambition to widen our 'world of work' activity into primaries, focused on KS2 pupils. Melanie Wakefield our Primary World of Work (PWOW) Coordinator, is working to establish and trial approaches to introducing the world of work, increasing pupil's exposure and understanding to different sorts of careers and career pathways to the world of work and to help raise aspirations and break career gender stereotypes.

We are delighted to have 16 primary schools engaged with the programme from a variety of different areas of Ipswich. We also have a number of employers on board who will be visiting schools and welcoming schools to their workplaces.

We offer one or more of the following models to all primary Opportunity Area Schools:

1. World of Work Day
2. World of Work lessons
3. STEM Learning
4. Further and Higher Education experiences
5. Enterprise Advisor

We are constantly looking for new voluntary employers/professionals to come on board with the Primary World of Work. If you or anyone you know maybe interested in this, please contact: melanie.wakefield@suffolk.gov.uk.

We are now at the exciting stage where we will start to roll out the above models within schools, so watch this space!

Supporting consistently high quality careers advice and guidance

The East Careers Training started a new Level 6 Careers Guidance and Development training course in November 2018 with 17 people enrolled. Nine learners have been full funded by the Ipswich Opportunity Area. The course will last until December 2019 and the learners are all working enthusiastically to get their first assignments completed. Successful completion of this course will mean that students in the Ipswich Opportunity Area will have increased access to qualified career guidance practitioners.

For more information visit [here](#).

Updates and Partner Activity

Teach First is a charity which trains and supports people with leadership potential to become inspirational teachers in schools facing the greatest challenges. If eligible, your school can recruit driven, passionate people to train and teach in your school through our Leadership Development Programme, rated Outstanding by Ofsted. Eligibility criteria is determined by the proportion of your pupils that are in the most deprived deciles of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). In the East of England we recruit and train in Science, Maths, English, History and Primary.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet you to discuss your school's recruitment needs and our primary programme: please email eastofengland@teachfirst.org.uk to speak to one of the School Partnership Team.

Careers Leader Training

The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) have provided bursaries for all schools and colleges in the Opportunity Area for fully funded Careers Leader training. Fourteen providers have been selected to offer this training across England with a range of accredited and non-accredited courses. The EAST Careers Training started their first course in December 2018; this is taking place in Ipswich and Norwich. A group of 20 careers leaders from across Norfolk and Suffolk attended with five careers leaders from IOA.

The EAST Careers Training will be starting a new course in Ipswich and Norwich on 4th April. There are still places available. To apply, please click [here](#) to request your place from the CEC and chose a provider that suits your needs. Dates of training locally are attached.

There is a limited time for this funding, so careers leaders with a reserved place need to take up the opportunity ASAP.

There are also a number of additional CPD events being arranged for existing practitioners with further dates planned for wider stakeholders involved in careers and employer engagement related activities.

For more information contact jacqui.phipps@suffolk.gov.uk