



TADSS news

AUTUMN 2020

It's been a while since our last TADSS newsletter and there is lots to report. We had a successful start to the 2019-20 academic year with a wide range of CPD and training, ITT trainees and ongoing outreach. Plans for our April 2020 conference were in place and we were really excited about the speakers but then COVID-19 hit and everything was postponed. Like everything else, core TADSS work stopped whilst we got used to new ways of working. The Management Board continued to meet and we have a new TADSS development plan in place, with some areas carried over from last year.



CPD has been on pause for the time being until we can be sure that it's safe to run training. We are planning to offer some online training but there has been a huge amount of this on offer and we want to ensure that our training makes good practical sense for all involved in it. Prior to lockdown we continued to offer high quality training and received incredibly positive feedback from the participants on our courses. In the past year we ran over 20 events, before lockdown, including a Middle Leaders course and Lessons from Pilot Ofsted inspections. We have taken on the responsibility of operating the contract for the HLTA SouthWest training amongst many other interesting and valuable courses.

Our Outreach service continues to play a key role in supporting mainstream schools with their pupils with SEND. This year, for the first time, we have had to tender for this contract, which was a lengthy process. We have been awarded the contract until March 2021 and are working with Dorset Council around the continuation of this. A big thank you to Clare Mackavoy for her work on our bid, and to all who helped support this. Outreach is currently continuing in a virtual capacity until we can be confident in visiting schools.

We had great success with our 10 ITT students last year who all passed so many congratulations to them. We have a new cohort of 10 students this year who are already active on Zoom.

Preparations for our TADSS conference were ongoing throughout the year and we had a great day planned. Thank you to Nichola Chitson and the CPD committee who worked so hard to organise this. The conference will now need to be postponed, more information will follow on this...

In February we said goodbye to our TADSS administrator, Annie Baddiley, who has moved on to a role in school finance. We recruited Laura Hemming who started working for TADSS in September. A warm welcome to her. At Easter we sadly said goodbye to Clare Mackavoy, one of our amazing TADSS Leads. Clare has retired and we are grateful for all she did to develop TADSS into what it has become. We welcome Gill Howard as a Head Teacher on the TADSS Board. Gill has long been a huge supporter of TADSS and we are delighted to be working with her in her new role.

We have recently updated our website to ensure information is kept up to date, with more developments to come.

This has been a year of huge uncertainty for Teaching Schools, which will cease to function in their current form. The future is to have Teaching School Hubs, where one Teaching School oversees the work and support for 200-300 schools. Our central funding for TADSS will cease in March 2021, but we have every ambition to continue our work, whether as part of a larger hub or by focussing on a core offer which will bring us the funding we need to operate successfully. You will hear more about this during the year.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported TADSS this year, either through their work on committees, delivering training and outreach or participating in our courses. You have all helped in improving the provision for our young learners with SEND.

In these very unusual times let's keep on working together and finding ways to be inspired.

Seán Kretz, Chair of TADSS

PAST EVENTS

'UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH ADHD & ADD' 8th November 2019 with Tracey Foster, Sue Plechowicz and Mel Barnet



An exceptionally informative training event from very knowledgeable people. It was fabulous to dedicate a session on strengths / talents as opposed to challenges. Individual differences are here to be celebrated.

** Amazingly knowledgeable leader
- Tracey had a wealth of ideas
So much great information throughout the day. Almost too much BUT that's a really positive criticism.*

Thoroughly enjoyable

** ALL so relevant and so comprehensive. A truly valuable experience and great value for money.*

Brains are meant to work in different ways and we need the talents of ADHD and ADD people.

** ADHD has a scientific / physiological basis and isn't simply lack of boundaries or poor parenting.*

Thank you for such a positive, informative and worthwhile day

'THERAPLAY' TECHNIQUES IN THE CLASSROOM -31ST JANUARY 2020



Kirsten delivered the day beautifully. Pace was perfect, well explained and fun. Lots of opportunity to ask questions and explore.

LESSONS FROM A PILOT INSPECTION—17TH January 2020

"I can't say I'm looking forward to our next inspection but there is less trepidation after today."

*"Very useful 'inside' information from knowledgeable presenters;
Seán Kretz, Diane Makariou and Joe Barnett."*

DORSET STEPS

Dorset Steps is having a positive impact across the county, with data showing the incidents of restraint have reduced dramatically from the year prior to the introduction of Dorset Steps (2016-17) to now (2019-20).

There are currently 56 tutors trained across Dorset. Training sessions have continued to take place online and have received very positive feedback. The next tutor training (3 day course) is due to go ahead in March/April 2021, and will be delivered online or face to face depending on restrictions in place at the time.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

What an extraordinary year this has been! We all missed the annual conference in April and are hoping it won't be long until we can give you more information on how we can run this safely for you.

During the summer term, most CPD activity was focused on cancelling or postponing planned training sessions. We had hoped the Lego event would go ahead in the autumn instead but the interactive nature of the training meant that we had to cancel but we will set a new date for this once it is safe to do face to face training again.

The Preparation for HLTA training has gone ahead this autumn as an online learning activity. The participants are very engaged and the tutors have also learnt a lot, especially about screen sharing and breakout rooms! We are still recruiting for the Spring term so speak to your CPD co-ordinator if you are interested in pursuing this.

During the Spring term we are also hoping to run a series of TADSS shorts on attachment. More details to follow.

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

Our 10 trainees in 2019-20 showed great resilience in coping with a disrupted training year. We are very grateful to staff across the alliance who offered additional virtual training sessions for the trainees during the summer term when they were out of their placement schools.

The cohort of 10 who started in September 2020 settled into their main placements and are now preparing for their second placements in the new year. It is a shame that this cohort have not yet met face to face but they are a very engaged and committed group, coping well with up to 6 hours of training during their taught programme days. Staff from across the alliance are contributing to the taught programme and 3 of the alliance schools will be hosting trainees in the Spring term.

Recruitment for 2021/22 is going well but we still have a few places available if you know someone interested in becoming a teacher.

SCHOOL TO SCHOOL SUPPORT

The current priority for the School to School Support (S2SS) Committee remains to support and grow our Subject Leader Groups. Through these groups we can ensure that there continues to be a strong focus on our curriculums across the TADSS schools. Subject Leads are able to support each other by sharing knowledge, resources and experiences. Previously some Leads have worked together to complete joint pieces of work such as Schemes of Work – saving time and energy. The Committee would like to support the Chairs of each of these groups to continue this collaborative way of working. Any Subject Lead who is currently not involved in one of these groups but would be keen to do so is encouraged to contact their school S2SS Committee representative.

Over the year new groups have been successfully formed such as the Designated Safe-guarding Leads group and the School Business Managers group.

Before lockdown, some of the TADSS Specialist Leaders in Education (SLEs) had managed to deliver training to several settings covering topics such as ASD and Sensory.

Diane Makariou, Co Headteacher of Beaucroft Foundation School, and chair of School to School Support.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2019/20 projects included,

- A completed research piece (from Joshua Tun Pe Yewstock) investigating nurture provision and staffing for selected pupils with attachment disorder.
- A detailed and informative wellbeing survey in conjunction with Journal Matcher comparing national data with pupil feedback at Westfield.
- Continued development of Personal Skills in the curriculum at Westfield (in addition to previous work on Independence and Resilience).

Projects for 2020/21 include,

- The benefits of Linguistic Programming to support mental health and wellbeing (Kat Jory, Yewstock).
- The impact of a therapy dog in school (Alice Dell'Oca, Westfield).
- A second comparative data capture from wellbeing survey (Mark Holloway, Westfield).
- Use of the online Boxall Profile to measure the impact of targeted personal development skills with selected pupils (Mark Holloway, Westfield).



If you are interested in running a research project at your school please contact Mark Holloway, chair of the Research and Development Committee and Teacher at Westfield, mholloway@westfield.dorset.sch.uk for more information.

LEADERSHIP



Congratulations to Gill Howard, chair of the Leadership Committee, who has been appointed Head of Mountjoy School after four years as Deputy Head at Yewstock School.

Many people believe that people are 'born-leaders'... you either have it or you don't. In their mind's eye, they know what a leader should look and behave like.

Then, if they personally don't fit the image they have formed, they don't see themselves as a leader.

Every person in school is a leader. They lead by setting a good example; they lead through integrity which develops into the trust other people have in them; they lead through trying things out till they find the solution; they lead through being kind; they lead through listening carefully to others before forming a view. The list goes on!

If we accept that leadership techniques and tools can be learnt and that mistakes are okay as long as we learn from them, we all have the potential to be a leader and surely the world needs a range of different types of leader.

We should look within ourselves for the capacity to lead and then consider the young people we are educating so that they don't grow up with a fixed view of what a leader is.

Watch this space for forthcoming leadership courses.

TADSS Staff

We are your main point of contact for TADSS and look forward to hearing from you. Even if we don't know the answer we can point you in the right direction! Please let us know if there are any aspects of SEND that you would like training events set up for.

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From all of us at TADSS we would like to wish you a relaxing Christmas break and a happy and healthy new year. We look forward to seeing you in 2021.