



# Forest Way Alliance News

AUTUMN TERM 2021

[www.forestwaytsa.org](http://www.forestwaytsa.org)

Welcome to the autumn edition of our newsletter.

We hope that you have settled into the new academic year and are beginning to look forward to a well-earned Christmas break.

This term has certainly posed some challenges for the education sector and it looks as if the spring term will continue to be a testing time for all of us.

We find ourselves focusing firmly on teaching & learning and embedding curriculum development, whilst at the same time managing all of the everyday complications that living within a pandemic brings. It is clear to see that our schools continue to work extremely hard to provide high quality education and care for their students. They also continue to provide excellent support for our RQTs, ECTs and ITT students: this year we have 25 teachers training with FWA and all have settled in well at their host schools.

This half term I have had the pleasure and privilege of visiting twenty of our wonderful partnership schools and will do my best to ensure that I have visited all by the end of next term. I have found it invaluable to have the opportunity to meet and talk openly with the headteachers about their schools. Whilst we have discussed the challenges that they are facing, the majority of the conversation has been around the strategic directions that the school is taking, curriculum development, key areas of focus and new initiatives that are being introduced and rolled out. Instilling a love of learning and care and respect for each other flows through all of our schools, we are blessed with extremely dedicated and highly skilled teaching and support staff who were all friendly and welcoming.

Common messages that shone through in our primary schools were our focus on EYFS, the new curriculum, assessment and support those children who are only now being



introduced into the routines and expectations that school life brings. We are working hard to provide support for staff working in EYFS, particularly focusing on speech and language and SEND support. Our schools are not only focused on the curriculum they go to great lengths to ensure that children have exposure to as many different experiences and opportunities as possible in order for them to achieve and feel successful.

Our secondary schools are going through a period of rapid change introducing either key stage 3 or key stage 4 curriculums for the first time with the age range change. Whilst all of the schools are very different it is magnificent to see that they are harnessing the power of collaboration to support each other through this journey.

The well-being of staff and students is a clear priority for all our schools and we are currently looking for the right expertise to deliver training and support in this area. With this in mind, we would like to wish all of the staff and students in our schools a Very Merry Christmas. We hope that you have the opportunity to celebrate and get together with family and friends. For all of our Headteachers my ask is that you should make a little time for yourselves, relax and recharge, you cannot look after everyone else if you're not looking after yourself too.

*Sarah Wallace*

## School Direct Programme 2021/22

We are delighted to have recruited 25 School Direct trainees and a SEND apprentice this year, despite the challenges of marketing and promoting our programme during the height of the Covid pandemic. We continue to work in partnership with Derby University, Loughborough University and the University of Leicester.

Our SD trainees are nearing the end of their first placement and they have all settled into their host schools incredibly well – we are very proud of their progress. Our programme would not be a success without the continued outstanding work of our partnership schools, so thank you for your ongoing support during such a challenging and busy time.

Currently our Hub sessions are taking place at Yew Lodge Hotel in Kegworth, although we hope to return to Appleby Park in February.

Our trainees have enjoyed some fantastic sessions so far this academic year, many of them led by highly skilled practitioners from our partnership schools.

Evaluations of the sessions show that our trainees really appreciate such high quality training from practicing teachers, so please do not underestimate the impact you have on them and on their journey to become skilled teachers.



Our industrious Primary SD trainees busy discussing effective lesson planning.

The application cycle for 2022/3 opened in October and we are pleased to report that we have already recruited several promising candidates to our Primary and Secondary programmes.

Thank you to members of staff that have given their time to conduct interviews with us – we appreciate your input and expert opinion.



As always, most of our applicants are local and have heard of us through links with our local schools, so please continue to promote our programme in your newsletters and in your staff rooms.

## School Direct Marketing

We rely heavily on social media for our marketing so please do like/share/retweet our posts and don't forget to put a link to the ITT pages on our website from your school website if you have not already done so.

<http://www.forestwaytsa.org/initial-teacher-training.html>



Forest Way Alliance



@forstwayTSA

We also have a new FWA logo so please email [tsa@forestway.leics.sch.uk](mailto:tsa@forestway.leics.sch.uk) for an up to date image for your website or if you require any more information.



/Cont'd...

We would be grateful if you could also mention that we offer Teacher Training in your school newsletters, again if you would like any graphics or text or a copy of the article here (as a pdf or a jpeg image) please email us.

tsa@forestway.leics.sch.uk



## School Direct Wellbeing Day at Beaumanor Hall

In November our trainee teachers spent a well-deserved day at Beaumanor Hall, participating in a range of activities designed to create friendships, build resilience and encourage creativity.

The morning was spent outdoors in the bracing fresh air!



The trainees completed an orienteering task, a weight bearing structure task and a highly

entertaining nightline task in which they were challenged to find their way through an obstacle course blind-folded with aid of a guide rope.

After a hot lunch and a break, the trainees then spent the afternoon creating some amazing works of art with just their fingertips – the results were amazing as you can see from the photos!



## Educational Psychology Service

Forest Way Alliance and Psychology 360 have joined together to provide a flexible and comprehensive Educational Psychology offer which is responsive to the needs of Alliance schools. Under the Alliance umbrella, schools can seek the support of Psychology 360 as and when it is needed with no requirement for a fixed number of sessions each year.

Working closely with schools they will provide a written record with agreed actions and next steps. A piece of casework is typically two sessions of time (to include preparation, visit and written record) with a total cost of £540.

### Dr Sharon Girdham

Has a Doctorate of Applied Educational Psychology from the University of Nottingham. Prior to training as an Educational Psychologist, she spent 14 years working as a teacher and senior leader across the Primary phase both in the UK and abroad.



### Dr Helen Smith

Has a Doctorate of Applied Educational Psychology from the University of Nottingham. Prior to training as an Educational Psychologist, she worked as an Assistant Psychologist in a CAMHS funded project. Before this she was a primary school teacher and senior leader, in Leicestershire schools



Forest Way Alliance and Psychology 360



Working together to provide robust Educational Psychology support for Alliance schools

To access Psychology 360 services please contact Pam Lord

Email: [tsa@forestway.leics.sch.uk](mailto:tsa@forestway.leics.sch.uk) Tel: 01530 277363

For more information visit our website

<http://www.forestwaytsa.org/educational-psychology.html>

## Dyslexia Assessment Service

FWA have secured the services of Donna Kirby and Alyson Dakin who are both able to assess pupils for Dyslexia, for schools within the Forest Way Alliance.



### Donna Kirby

Donna has over 25 years of teaching experience, teaching in the city and the county. For the last 15 years, she has been the SENDCo at Hugglescote Primary.

She has a degree in Psychology and has always been most interested in educating those pupils with additional needs. She has attended many courses over the years, to continue this passion and specialism.

She currently hosts the Forest Way SENDCO Network group. She is now registered with the British Dyslexic Association to be able to assess pupils for Dyslexia and has been awarded SpLD Assessment Practicing Certificate (AMDA and APC).

### Alyson Dakin

Alyson has been a qualified teacher for over 27 years and has worked predominantly within the area of Special Educational Needs for the last 13 years; this has included



Cont'd...

*the role of an assistant SENDCo and SEN teacher in secondary schools.*

*She has a deep understanding of the Education System and a wealth of experience teaching pupils with a variety of needs, this has included classroom teaching as well as small group and 1-1 support.*

*As an experienced specialist dyslexia assessor and specialist teacher Alyson is perfectly placed to be able to advise other teachers after assessments on the best ways to progress a pupils learning. She fully understands the barriers to learning that pupils may have and the challenges they may face which makes her well placed with her experience and knowledge to suggest strategies that will help pupils attain.*

## Network Group Meetings

Network meetings are a great way for your subject specialists to keep up to date with the current issues and ideas and are FREE.

Forest Way Alliance facilitate Network Group meetings once per term, the focus or agenda for this terms meetings are below and staff can book on using our on-line booking system.

**Computing Network** – Facilitators Russell Thornewill & Kathryn Lester  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – 2.00 to 4.00pm  
Agenda:

- a. Assessment - bring samples of work (hard/digital copies).
- b. Coding preparing Yr6 students for year 7
- c. Computing in EYFS (preparing students for KSI)

**Primary Maths** – Facilitator Claire Beswick  
Monday 17 January 2022 1.30 to 3.30pm  
Focus: The Maths mastering approach.

**Forest Way SENDCO Network** –  
Facilitator Donna Kirby  
Thursday 27 January 2022 - 1.30 to 3.30pm  
Focus: Ofsted inspections focus and the role of the SENDCo and the SEND review process in school.

A new **Network for Headteachers** will be up and running in the spring term, so watch out for details landing in your mail box soon.

We are also looking into the possibility of setting up a **Governors Network Group** again as this was popular in previous years.

**Early Years Practitioners** – Facilitator Lisa Hicks  
Wednesday 9 February 2022 – 4.00 to 5.00pm  
Focus: The new framework mid-term and long-term planning.

**PHSE** – Facilitator – Rob Cooper  
Tuesday 22 February 2022 - 1.30 to 3.30  
Agenda:

- a. Welcome and introductions to new attendees
- b. Statutory guidance and advice updates
- a. Ofsted – Deep dives, Curriculum intent, impact and implementation.
- b. RSE
- c. Careers Education
- d. Good practice and resources
- e. Any other business
- f.

**Primary Literacy** – Facilitator Charlotte Gamble  
Tuesday 11 February 2022 – 1.30 to 3.30pm

## Headteachers' Briefings

DRB Ignite have been delivering these termly briefings for many years now and they are still proving to be very popular. The next session will be held on Tuesday 1 March 2022 – 9.00 to 11.45 and this session will now be followed by the option of LUNCH and a networking session for those who want it.



Please see our **BOOKING WEBSITE** for details and to book your place.  
[www.bookwhen.com/forestwaytsa](http://www.bookwhen.com/forestwaytsa)

## Up Coming CPD

### ELSA Training 2022

Training for Emotional Literacy Support Assistants 6 Sessions – Starts 10 March 2022  
 Cost: £500

[Click here for details and booking](#)



### Effective Leadership of Others

Support for leaders in the art of leading others to effectively drive school improvements and retain staff.

2 Sessions – Starts Monday 10 January 2022  
 Cost £75

[Click here for details and booking](#)

### Practical help for mental health leads in schools

Training for your mental health lead to upskill all staff to deliver high quality teaching in health and well being.

Wednesday 23 March 2022

Cost £170 – Includes a Toolkit worth £120

[Click here for details and booking](#)

### EYFS Assessment Discussion

Round the table discussion to share ideas using the new framework.

Wednesday 19 January 2022

Cost £25

[Click here for details and booking](#)

### Talk Boost – Reception & KS1 Refresher Training

Make use of those resources sitting on your shelf

Friday 28 January 2022

Cost: £85 for 2 staff members

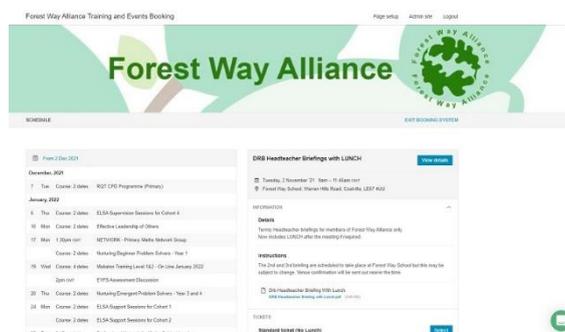
[Click here for details and booking](#)

### We also have plans for a Professional Network for English Subject Leaders run by Alex Timson and

### EYFS Inclusion – Supporting SEND Students

Run by Lisa Hicks

In the Spring Term so watch out for details soon.



## STEM Science Learning Partnership

The Leicestershire, Leicester City, Rutland and Northamptonshire Science Learning Partnership (SLP) is based in Forest Way Alliance. We are part of the National STEM Learning Network, which is made up of 25 SLPs across the country, plus the National STEM Centre at York. The network is funded by the DfE and Wellcome Trust with the remit of providing high quality, local CPD for secondary, primary, special and further education science teachers and settings.

### What we offer:

The services that we can provide for your school include:

#### CPD:

- **Face to Face Science CPD** (when circumstances allow) – half or full day CPD on a wide range of current Teaching and Learning topics and providing Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses.
- **Network meetings** for teachers and technicians regular opportunities to collaborate.
- **Bespoke courses** – tailor-made CPD just for your school.
- **Online Science CPD** – live and self-paced study.

#### Leading others

Subject Leader / Coordinator Networks – support and collaboration.

Leading CPD training: Train your teachers to be STEM Facilitators through our CPD Mark accreditation and become a local hub for STEM CPD to meet your science needs and any partner school needs.

### Resources:

- Access to free online quality assured resources.

### Enrichment:

- We also work closely with the STEM Ambassadors, which is also operated by STEM Learning. And can support activities such as STEM enrichment clubs and careers events for students.

We can also sign post to the other STEM subject areas such as Design Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Computer Science.

### Why engage with us?

At STEM Learning, we believe every young person needs and deserves a world-leading STEM education, one that engages and nurtures their unique talents, and provides the knowledge and skills they will need to participate fully as the creators and citizens of tomorrow. By making high quality CPD and resources available to your teachers, we help them to provide the best opportunity for your students to achieve their potential.

### Want to know more?

If you want to find out more about STEM Learning, please go to

<https://www.stem.org.uk/>

We would very much like to work with you and support your colleagues in whatever way we can. If you would like more information about working in partnership with us or simply want to know more about our CPD offer, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Jane Elmer - Science Learning Partnership  
Email: [j.elmer@stem.org.uk](mailto:j.elmer@stem.org.uk)



## Forest Way School Outreach Services

### Forest Way School Outreach Support

Forest Way School offer a personalised approach to support each child, including those that attend our school and those in other settings, to progress and achieve.

The aims of our outreach support are to:

- Support mainstream schools in meeting the precise and specific needs of pupils with complex learning difficulties
- Help teachers and teaching assistants feel more confident in their day-to-day work in the classroom
- Build confidence through being able to talk to, observe and work alongside skilled practitioners from special school settings
- Further develop partnership between special schools and mainstream schools in a strategic, planned and transparent way
- Prevent failure and promote a culture of success

To access this service please complete the Outreach Service Request Form from the school website

<https://www.forestway.leics.sch.uk/key-information/send-outreach/>

and return to the outreach co-ordinator Caroline Lupton at [Clupton@forestway.leics.sch.uk](mailto:Clupton@forestway.leics.sch.uk).

### Forest Way School Outreach Forum

Forest Way School is excited to be able to offer a SEND forum for local educational and SEND professionals.

This new forum will deliver support to ensure all children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities access the highest quality provision and achieve excellent outcomes.

A forum will be held one afternoon every half term 1:30-3:30pm TBC. A maximum of 5 schools will be invited to share their referral case with the panel, if this service proves popular there can be several forum held over a term. The individual cases will be discussed amongst the panel and other invited schools giving the opportunity to discuss, listen and share good practice on a variety of SEND strategies.

If you are interested in joining us please email Caroline at [Clupton@forestway.leics.sch.uk](mailto:Clupton@forestway.leics.sch.uk) for further details and to book a place.



**Forest Way  
School**

Don't forget to visit our website for details of all the Alliance services, network groups and CPD we have on offer.

[www.forestwaytsa.org](http://www.forestwaytsa.org)