

# Sevenoaks Partnership Newsletter

Issue 1



Welcome to our first Sevenoaks Partnership newsletter. We hope it will give you a little insight into the collaborative work between the 27 primary schools which make up our Partnership. We have collaborations varying in size from large conferences for all staff, to smaller training opportunities or Challenge Group meetings, to leaders' forums or working with one other colleague in another school on Lesson Study. There is a lot happening and lots planned for the future. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter which has been so kindly designed and printed by staff at Sevenoaks School.



If you want more information about any aspect of the work of the Partnership, please email me or give me a ring.

Helen Jones

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Sevenoaks Partnership

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## Some of the initiatives we are currently working on are:

### Challenge Groups

Sevenoaks Partnership agreed that to increase opportunities for school improvement, a Challenge Group model would be adopted to enable smaller groups of schools to work together within the partnership. This model is designed to enhance the excellent collaborations that already exist across the partnership as a whole.

The Challenge Groups are as follows:

- Group 1 – St John's, Lady Boswell's, Anthony Roper, Seal, St Lawrence, Halstead
- Group 2 – Sevenoaks, Otford, Shoreham, Dunton Green, Chevening
- Group 3 – Knockholt, Riverhead, Amherst, Churchill, Sundridge and Brasted
- Group 4 – Crockham Hill, Leigh, Weald, Chiddingstone, Hever
- Group 5 – Ide Hill, Four Elms, Edenbridge, Penshurst, Fordcombe

One Headteacher from each Challenge Group represents that group on the Sevenoaks Partnership Board. The Board comprises Helen Jones (Education Consultant who is Chair), Alison Saunders (St Lawrence), Gillian Lovatt-Young (Shoreham), Andrew Reid (Amherst), David Pyle (Weald), Wendy Fox (Four Elms).



### Updates from Challenge Groups

The Challenge Group model set up by the partnership is proving to be successful with exciting collaboration opportunities taking place. Some of the current initiatives include: School Councils meeting to share ideas, generate events and competitions; writing moderations and agreeing samples; staff meetings to share discussion points; staff visiting each school and conducting learning walks and book looks; lesson studies; shared planning across all schools for one literacy unit leading to shared moderation; creating a common framework for assessment including ways of reporting to parents; character education; social events; SIAMS update; gifted and talented book group; Heads meeting.

### The Future of the Sevenoaks Partnership

A proposal has been made that to 'future-proof' the partnership, we should consider the possibility of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Amongst other benefits, this could prove beneficial for buying power, for small schools or infant schools who might be less attractive to academy chains and, with KCC restructuring in the near future, providing the partnership with a business model through which to offer training and school improvement services. The Board Members of the partnership will investigate this and feedback to Heads at the next partnership meeting on Tuesday 28th March.

### Partnership Well-being Conference, October 2016 led by Spiral Wellbeing

Feedback from the conference was very good with attendees indicating that they felt they had gained insight into a range of well-being strategies and enjoyed the opportunity to practice relaxation and mindfulness.

The next partnership conference, to be held on Friday 20th October 2017 at Sevenoaks School, will be on Quality Questioning when we will welcome guest speaker Mike Gershon.

### Well-being and Behaviour

Sevenoaks Primary School has organised a range of training on Mental Health in Young people which was made available for all school staff and leaders. It is proposed that a forum is set up to share good practise. A Behaviour Audit has been developed and is now available to be used in schools. This will be done with school leaders supporting each other as part of a self-evaluation process. Three schools will be undertaking this audit in the next month.

For more information, contact Helen Jones: [helen836jones@gmail.com](mailto:helen836jones@gmail.com)

### Forums / Current Projects

The following forums are active ways for you to join in with the Partnership.

Please contact the lead if you are not yet involved: DHT lead is Peppie Cornelius from Otford.

Email: [peppie.cornelius@otford.kent.sch.uk](mailto:peppie.cornelius@otford.kent.sch.uk)

Early Years lead is Jo Taylor from Lady Boswells.

Email: [j.taylor@ladboswells.kent.sch.uk](mailto:j.taylor@ladboswells.kent.sch.uk)

SENDCo lead is Nicola Joyce from Sevenoaks Primary. Email: [senco@sevenoaks.kent.sch.uk](mailto:senco@sevenoaks.kent.sch.uk)

Gifted and Talented lead is Kelly Harman from Lady Boswell's.

Email: [k.harman@ladyboswells.kent.sch.uk](mailto:k.harman@ladyboswells.kent.sch.uk)

Well-Being and Behaviour lead is Alan Duffy.

Email: [duffy01@klz.org.uk](mailto:duffy01@klz.org.uk)

Writing lead is Wendy Fox:

Email: [wfox@four-elms.kent.sch.uk](mailto:wfox@four-elms.kent.sch.uk)





### **Training Programmes**

School staff members from across the partnership are currently attending our bespoke training courses which include: NQT, NQT +1, New Heads and Middle Leaders. Additional training for users of Pupil Asset and Raise Online have also taken place alongside mental health first aid training for people in different roles within schools.

### **Links with Sevenoaks School**

The partnership has forged strong and active links with Sevenoaks School through their Head of Innovation and Outreach, Graeme Lawrie. Some schools have already managed to visit Sevenoaks to use their IT equipment or have been visited in school by staff. Other projects have included electronics, robotics, star gazing, sports support, using the science labs and also the booking of their stage and concert hall.

Please contact Graeme Lawrie if you have an idea to enrich your pupils' learning that could be developed. [GAL@sevenoaksschool.org](mailto:GAL@sevenoaksschool.org)

