

Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) Briefings

Date	Time	Course Code	Venue
12 th June 2009	1.00pm – 3.30pm	09T/00213	Guildford Children's Centre GU1 1NR
17 th June 2009	1.00pm – 3.30pm	09T/00228	RA&A, Gatton Park, Reigate RH2 OTW
6 th October 2009	1.00pm – 3.30pm	09T/00229	RA&A, Gatton Park, Reigate RH2 OTW
22 nd October 2009	1.00pm – 3.30pm	09T/00230	St George's Christian Centre, Ashtead KT21 2DA
2 nd February 2010	10.00am – 12.30pm	09T/00231	Guildford Children's Centre GU1 1NR

Support Work in Schools (SWiS) Briefing for Parent Support Adviser / Home School Link Worker

Date	Time	Course Code	Venue
2 nd July 2009	1.30pm – 3.00pm	09T/00235	The Runnymede Centre, Addlestone KT15 2EP

Support Work in Schools (SWiS) Briefings suitable for all support staff in schools.

Date	Time	Course Code	Venue
25 th June 2009	1.30pm – 3.00pm	09T/00252	Reigate Baptist Church RH2 7LR
23 rd September 2009	1.30pm – 3.00pm	09T/00254	St George's Christian Centre, Ashtead KT21 2DA
17 th November 2009	4.00pm – 5.30pm	09T/00255	Guildford Children's Centre GU1 1NR
21 st January 2010	1.30pm – 3.00pm	09T/00256	RA&A, Gatton Park RH2 OTW

Primary TA Induction (each cohort is a 5 day programme)

Date	Time	Course Code	Venue
Autumn cohort 1	09.30 am—3.30 pm	09T/00246	RA & A, Gatton Park, Reigate RH2 OTW
Autumn cohort 2	09.30 am—3.30 pm	09T/00245	Various
Spring cohort 3	09.30 am—3.30 pm	09T/00258	The Runnymede Centre, Addlestone KT15 2EP

Secondary TA Induction (each cohort is a 4 day programme)

Date	Time	Course Code	Venue
Autumn cohort 1	09.30 am—3.30 pm	09T/00259	The Runnymede Centre, Addlestone KT15 2EP
Spring cohort 2	09.30 am—3.3.0 pm	09T/00260	Reigate Baptist Church RH2 7LR

Support Staff Induction (a 1 Day Induction workshop)

Date	Time	Course Code	Venue
21st October 2009	09.30 am—3.30 pm	09T/00261	The Runnymede Centre, Addlestone KT15 2EP

To book your place on any of the above training and development sessions, visit www.vtfours.co.uk/cpdonline and search by title or date.

Editorial and contact details - TA News is produced and distributed by the Workforce Development Team, VT Four S Ltd. For information, enquiries and to send in your contributions, please contact the Workforce Development Team on 0800 0734444 ext 835011 or wd@vtplc.com.

Teaching Assistant News

Support Staff Celebratory Event

March 2009

This year's highly successful and enjoyable Support Staff Celebratory Event for Surrey took place at the Burford Bridge Hotel on the 6th March 2009. Over 130 guests from across the county came together to recognise the achievements of support staff in Surrey schools. They included support staff who had been awarded the NVQ levels 2 and 3 *in Supporting Teaching and Learning*, the Support Work in Schools qualification (SWiS) at levels 2 and 3, and the Higher Level Teaching Assistant status (HLTA). Anne Hudson, Workforce Development Strategy Manager from VT Four S, welcomed guests and spoke about the positive impact that support staff are making to schools in the county. This praise was echoed in the speech by guest speaker TDA Regional Adviser – South East, Gill Marels, who also provided a national perspective on the role of support staff. At the event, Kevin Hannigan, Workforce Development Consultant commented, "Having been in post for just under a year, I've been impressed by the commitment shown by support staff and acknowledge the challenge involved in holding down a job and undertaking training at the same time".

Gill Marels was joined by Moira Greenfield, Education Consultant to present support staff with their certificates of achievement. During the evening, the audience was treated to an enjoyable and entertaining performance by the choir from Esher High School. The success of the evening was summarised afterwards by one Teaching Assistant who said "It's wonderful that we are being recognised in this way, we work very hard throughout the year and it's great to be appreciated and acknowledged".



Over 130 Surrey school support staff attended the celebratory event to receive acknowledgement of their achievements during 2008.



Happy Support Staff with their Certificates.



The choir from Esher High School provided entertainment at the event.

PSHE CPD for HLTAs

September 2009 sees the launch of the accreditation for HLTAs through a pilot project. For the first time ever, the PSHE CPD Programme will enable HLTAs to take part in an accredited programme run in partnership between the DCSF, VT Four S and Roehampton University.

This programme is aimed at all who have experience of delivering aspects of PSHE in schools or other settings. It will enable HLTAs to develop their confidence and effectiveness in supporting PSHE and will provide official recognition of their expertise. Successful participants will be awarded 30 HE1 credits through Roehampton University as a 'Certificate of Professional Practice'. Four training days are funded; schools will be expected to release staff for further support sessions to help with portfolio development.

Places will be awarded through application as numbers are limited. The introductory briefing session (s) are on Monday 22nd June 2.30pm –3.15pm and Monday 22nd June 4.00pm – 4.45pm at West Park Hospital, Horton Lane, Epsom KT19 8PB.

For further information and an application form, contact sarah.lyles@vtplc.com

A TA's Story....**Debbie Litten - Stamford Green Primary School**

Debbie Litten has worked at Stamford Green Primary School as a Special Needs Assistant for 7 years.



Previously Debbie worked in an Accounts Department securing an NVQ2 in Financial Accounting. After having her second child Debbie became a registered childminder for Surrey County Council for three years, she thoroughly enjoyed this experience. This was where the passion for working with children began. In September 2002 Debbie joined Stamford Green initially as a Teaching Assistant, before taking on the role of a Special Needs Assistant. Debbie completed a VQ2 'Support Work in Schools' qualification (now known as SWiS) in 2006 through Weir Training. This was the beginning of her professional development, in January 2007 she undertook the NVQ2 'Teaching Assistants' qualification at Nescot, followed by the NVQ3 'Teaching Assistants' qualification.

In September 2008, Debbie enrolled at Kingston University on a newly offered course 'Early Years Foundation Degree in Special Educational Needs'. Debbie currently provides support for an ASD pupil within a mainstream setting and Autism is her area of expertise. Debbie works closely with the school SENCo and together they have established Social Groups throughout the school. Debbie also helps with the school netball team and likes playing whenever she has a bit of spare time!!!

TA Champions Meeting

TA network meetings continue to be successful across Surrey. Each term TA Champions meet to share ideas and discuss ways of developing networks in their area. TA Champions are invited to our last meeting for this term on 24th June at 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. Venue: VT Four S Training and Development Centre, Cobham KT11 2AX. New champions will be made very welcome. To book your place at this meeting, please visit :

www.vtfours.co.uk/cpdonline quoting Course Ref: 09T/00263.

National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Supporting Teaching & Learning

The Training & Development Agency (TDA) has worked with school leaders, and consulted with national organisations and sector skills councils, to develop new National Occupational Standards for supporting teaching and learning. The standards describe what teaching assistants and other support staff need to do, know and understand in their roles, and can be used in recruitment, development and progression.

The standards are divided into 69 units which describe the skills and knowledge that learning support staff need to do their jobs effectively. The units cover a broad range of support staff roles including teaching assistants, cover supervisors, pastoral support, bilingual support, subject support, and special educational needs, and additional and behavioural support. Units are selected that are relevant to the duties and responsibilities of the role.

If a teaching assistant is undertaking an NVQ in Supporting Teaching & Learning, they will need to do a certain number of mandatory and optional units at either Level Two or Level Three. The Support Work in Schools (SWiS) qualification at levels two and three is also mapped to the NOS units.

The TDA website (www.tda.gov.uk) has a comprehensive online resource about support staff, including a specific section on the NOS for Supporting Teaching & Learning. The section includes a unit selection tool which can be used to assess at which level an individual is working and which units are applicable to their role and further development.

The VT Four S Workforce Development Team are offering fully funded briefings on the NOS for Supporting Teaching & Learning to be delivered via your school's Confederation and booked through the Confederation Manager or CPD Leader. **For further information contact wd@vtplc.com**

Example Unit – STL3 – Help to Keep Children Safe

This unit is about keeping children and young people safe during day-to-day work activities. It covers responding to accidents, emergencies and illness, and requires familiarity with and the ability to set in motion safety, safeguarding and welfare procedures, according to the policies and procedures of the setting.

Teachers TV !

Teachers TV now has a specialist section for Teaching Assistants. To access a range of interesting topics log on to

<http://teachers.tv/ta>

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The TA News is published once every term. You may have new members of staff joining your school who may like their own copy.

Do you have news for TA News?

Do you have a news item that you think might be suitable for the TA News? If you do, we would like to hear from you. Please email wd@vtplc.com with some information about your topic or

Tel 0800 073 4444 ext 835011.