

National Assessment Agency for ASTs and ETs

Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues such as : school workforce advisers and leading phase consultants, plus headteachers, teachers who may be interested in becoming an AST or an ET and school advisers within your authority.

Issue no. 11 - Jan 2009

Newsletter

2009 promises to be an ASTounding year!

The AST and ET Team at VT Education and Skills, the National Assessment Agency for ASTs and ETs, wish you a very happy 2009. It does promise to be an eventful year as we have been busy, back in Leatherhead, planning how we can best keep in touch and provide you with relevant and up-to-date AST information during the forthcoming year. If there are any subjects that you would like covered in future newsletters, do let us know.



VT Education and Skills
Opus 1
Bay Tree Avenue
Kingston Road
Leatherhead
Surrey KT22 7UE

T + 44(0)1372 834282
F + 44(0)1372 834000

Advancing ASTs An AST Conference for Surrey and the South East

This is a conference for headteachers, CPD leaders, ASTs, aspirant ASTs and LAs in the South East. It will be held on 24th March at the Holiday Inn in Guildford with an outstanding keynote speaker list. There will be two seminar sessions, both with a number of workshops. If you would like more information about this conference please contact Laura Snelling on 0800 073 4444 ext 834149

Stop Press The National AST Conference 8th July 2009

To be held in Central London on 8th July, this national AST Conference is a MUST for ASTs and Local Authorities. Put the date in your diary NOW and look out for more information.

AST and ET Local Authority Workshops

Building on the success of the 2008 workshops (two in London, one in Bristol and one in Leeds) we have three workshops scheduled for the early part of 2009. They will all have the same content and will be at the same location in London. They will be held on:

- 20th January – All places taken
- 21st January – All places taken
- 5th March – Places still available.

These workshops will focus on the following subjects:

- Monitoring, Impact and Performance Management of ASTs
- Funding models
- Assessing aspirant ASTs at different stages in their career.

They will follow the same pattern as previous workshops in that they will be informal yet informative, they will provide opportunities for networking and discussion between delegates on the subjects in question. If you would like to attend the workshop on the 5th March, please complete the attached response form and return to us as indicated on the form.

AST National Network

The AST National Network on the NCSL (National College of School Leadership) website, amazingly transformed under the new Lead Facilitator, Sara Bubb, is the on-line network for ASTs, AST LA Co-ordinators, prospective ASTs and other interested bodies. With a special network for local authorities, we hope you are logging on and using it to its full potential. If you have missed our e-mails about the website let us know on AS-TandET@vtplc.com and we will send you our brilliant guide to finding and using the site.

Advanced Skills Teachers Making a Difference

This is the first ever and really exciting DVD-ROM produced by the National Assessment Agency for ASTs and ETs. It provides valuable information about ASTs, primarily to Local Authorities, Headteachers and potential ASTs but it will provide significant, useful information to many more groups.

Filmed in various schools across the country, the DVD-ROM is introduced and endorsed by Professor Sir Tim Brighouse.

Advanced Skills Teachers – Making a Difference is in the final stages of production. Look out for more information on this exciting project.

The Impact of ASTs Research Project

We are undertaking research to show how the work of ASTs impacts on standards of pupil attainment. There have been several studies in the past to evaluate the effect of ASTs, but these have studied the attitudes of staff towards ASTs, their impact on teaching and the range of work they undertake. We are not aware of any national study of the direct link between ASTs and improved outcomes by students.

We are looking at how test results and examination outcomes have been influenced as a result of the appointment of an AST or a group of ASTs.

If you have any examples of data that might add to our study, please get in touch with June McNaughton, Head of Quality Assurance and Training at ASTandET@vtplc.com.