

Newsletter



Education and Skills

ASTs: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A NEW DVD-ROM resource for Schools and Local Authorities

ASTs: Making a Difference explores the Advanced Skills Teacher status and how ASTs are making an impact and a difference to pupils in schools all over the country. It provides an **overview** of AST status, **what the role involves**, and valuable information on the **assessment process**.

There are three main sections

- Why AST?
- AST Assessment
- What does an AST Do?

(Each section contains a number of different videos)



ASTs Making a Difference answers the questions:

- Why would I want an AST in my school?
- How do I become an AST?
- What does an AST do?

Teachers, headteachers, governors and local authority personnel will find the content interesting; it will be particularly valuable to those who have little or no experience of ASTs. This DVD-ROM answers many of the questions about the status, including those above.

We will be sending completely **free of charge** to each named local authority AST co-ordinator two copies of the DVD-ROM, via the postal address we have on record. However, we do not have a postal address for most of the other recipients of this e-newsletter. So if you would like to receive a copy of the DVD-ROM, please email the attached order form to: ASTandET@vtplc.com.

We can also arrange larger mail-outs to groups of schools/colleagues, direct from the VTE&S office. Please contact Jimmy Heslop on 01372 834282 or jimmy.heslop@vtplc.com if you would like to discuss this.

New Opportunities to Appoint ASTs and ETs in National Challenge and City Challenge Schools—What's New?

In our last newsletter we announced the new initiative by the DCSF to provide funding for new ASTs and ETs to be appointed in National Challenge and City Challenge schools. Since then the criteria for those schools eligible for the scheme has extended from schools where the leadership is rated good or better by Ofsted to schools whose leadership is rated **satisfactory** by Ofsted, so long as the appropriate adviser recommends that their leadership is now effective or has good capacity to improve towards this and the programme is appropriate to meet the identified needs of the school.

No Closing Date for Entry. However ...

The DCSF has informed us that there is no final date for entry and that schools can enter the scheme whenever they choose. However, some elements of the offer are time-limited. The funding for additional ASTs or ETs will be available only until the end of the academic year 2011/12 and the Golden Handcuff is available only to teachers joining schools in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

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The photograph, centre, is from the DVD-ROM and features Jennifer Bashford, AST at Great Barr School in Birmingham with two of her pupils.

DIARY DATES

15 October 2009
20 October 2009

AST and ET
Local Authority
Workshops

Mary Ward House
Conference and
Exhibition Centre
London WC1

Reserve these dates in your diary NOW so that you are not disappointed. We will send out details and response forms for these workshops before the end of the summer term.

The Essence of Excellence

A national conference for Headteachers, CPD Leaders, ASTs and aspirant ASTs

Wednesday 8 July 2009

Royal Horticultural Conference Centre, London

At this national conference, organised by VT Education and Skills, Sir Tim Brighouse, Tony Downing and Martin Flatman will celebrate the work of ASTs and help you to explore the potential of deploying ASTs in order to raise standards and to make learning exciting.

Sign up for this conference to:

- Hear first hand experiences and case studies of how ASTs are benefiting schools, LAs and individuals
- Network with colleagues from many schools including academies and national challenge schools, local authority personnel and staff working with The National Assessment Agency for ASTs and ETs
- Exchange ideas and strategies with practitioners from far and wide
- Learn which resources enhance learning
- Discover how best to enrich outreach time to have a positive impact on raising standards
- Gain a greater understanding of the AST assessment process and how best to prepare for the day of assessment
- Enjoy the company of fellow ASTs and personnel working with ASTs

At time of going to process there are places available. Conference details and application forms are available from Laura.snelling@vtpic.com. We welcome LA advisers, SIPs, NCA advisers and all those interested in the role of ASTs.

New Opportunities to Appoint ASTs and ETs in National Challenge and City Challenge Schools Workshops

During March, April and May Martin Flatman, AST and ET Project Director, travelled the length and breadth of England to meet local authority and school representatives to enhance understanding of the offer at local level.

If you have National Challenge schools in your area but have not have the benefit of Martin's insight, we are very willing to send you a pack of handouts from the workshops. To take this up please e-mail ASTandET@vtpic.com with your name, local authority and postal address.

If you have any burning questions that you would like to put to Martin, you can also send them to this e-mail address.

Martin recommends that eligible schools take up the offer via golden.handcuff@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. You can also send questions about the offer to this e-mail address or call 0870 000 2288.



Martin Flatman presents to a large audience in Birmingham.