

## Stoke-on-Trent Primary Science Subject Leaders Update

### Summer Term 2020

A new term that is unlike any other start of term previously. Given the pressures of COVID-19 it is more important than ever that we work collaboratively across the city within the community that has been established for primary science. This message outlines how the OA KS2 science project will adapt to meet its original expectations and how it can be responsive to shifting priorities and the urgent concerns that subject leaders now face. Key to the success to date of the KS2 science project is teacher to teacher talk for learning, we have more teachers talking about science learning, planning, resources, assessment, new approaches, funding and great ideas to challenge and improve. The opportunities area funding enabled Stoke-on-Trent to bring national expertise to the city with sustained programmes from three Universities and their researchers.

Local teacher community and national partner collaboration continues to underpin the SATC approach.

### What happens to the current scheduled CPD programme?

#### PSQM round 20

SATC has a protected budget for ten subsidies for PSQM (£600). The start date for round 20 has been postponed and is constantly reviewed in light of climate in schools. PSQM provides the tools and framework for self-evaluation, making leadership action planning really effective. For some subject leaders Round 20 will now be ideal timing to support the tasks that they are completing whilst not in school, for others the time is not appropriate. Each school and each teacher has a unique context at the moment. Requests for £600 subsidy to Emma Searl, [esearl@moorparkjunior.co.uk](mailto:esearl@moorparkjunior.co.uk) (limited to first 10 requests)

#### PSQM round 19

SATC subsidies for round 19 have already been claimed by participating schools. PSQM HQ have extended deadlines and communications with this regard are available at [www.psgm.org.uk](http://www.psgm.org.uk). Each school will know their own hub leader and should be in regular email dialogue, using the additional time to maximise the support with leadership tasks.

#### TDTS 2019/20

Twenty-four schools have completed three out of four days of Thinking Doing Talking Science with Helen Wilson and Bridgett Holligan. Participating schools all have a folder of the complete programme and access to the website with further information and detail. Subject leaders should have shared the web access with colleagues in their schools so that some of the approaches can be planned and mapped into new schemes of work. There are three local TDTS teacher champions that will host small focussed forums to talk about making sure that science is both practical and meaningful. (Zoom meets and Whatsapp forums.) To request to join a small teacher talk for learning TDTS forum- email Tina [tina@scienceacrossthecity.co.uk](mailto:tina@scienceacrossthecity.co.uk)

New dates to repeat TDTS (new cohort) in the academic year 2020 will be published. An application to external funding to make this fully funded (free) to Stoke schools is likely. See eventbrite links below. TDTS 2020/21 is relevant for teachers from a school committed to the approach but wanting to upskill others not yet attended or for schools new to TDTS. See testimonials of TDTS attendees [www.scienceacrossthecity.co.uk](http://www.scienceacrossthecity.co.uk)

#### TAPS Cohort 1 and 2

Nine schools completed the full Teacher Assessment in Primary Science programme with a further twenty-five schools completing at least one day of TAPS in cohort 2 before lockdown. Sarah Earle provided all Stoke schools with a password to all the TAPS resources. Subject leaders might encourage assessment leaders in school to watch the video clips explaining the principles of effective science assessment. There are five local TAPS champions that will host small forums to help to develop assessment practice into long term plans or schemes of work, email Tina, [tina@scienceacrossthecity.co.uk](mailto:tina@scienceacrossthecity.co.uk) to join a TAPS forum. SATC will launch next year a TAPS cohort 3 (fully funded (free) to schools). Schools from TAPS cohort 2 will be

able to refocus on assessment within this newly formed cohort. The CPD days will be planned bespoke for Stoke so rooted in the principles but with varied examples. All schools are welcome to consider the new cohort. See event eventbrite links below.

### **Subject Leader Networks (North and South)**

It is so important to have a forum to find out what others are doing and to be able to ask the questions that are sitting with subject leaders. Virtual meetings work well with a focus and time limited. Networks will be hosted by Helen Spring but in small groups of 5 or 6 schools invited to focussed meetings of up to an hour, accessible whether working in school or from home. Schools that had not previously joined the North or South network as they were in their own network are, of course, welcome to request to join this facilitated groups. See eventbrite link below

### **Every Friday five minute email**

The regular Friday messaging will restart 24<sup>th</sup> April. This is a quick win, a useful hint or tip to know what is going on in the wider STEM community. Regular free offers and events are included in this simple messaging forum.

### **What are we doing differently?**

Through April to June SATC will seek to enable effective teacher buddy school to school support. Whilst many subject leaders will be tackling a big to do list, sometimes with more time than usual, this is not a time to be working in isolation, we must not be re-inventing wheels that may already exist. Online, email, whatsapp and Zoom are all readily available tools. In Stoke our science champions are keen to support others informally whilst also signposting to national key messages.

Themes for **Virtual Science Teach-meets** include:

- Writing assessment into units
- Practical Approaches-what approaches to try when
- Subject knowledge challenges- Physics
- Subject knowledge challenges- Chemistry
- Curriculum maps/ long term plans
- Resource evaluation- The stuff stars are made of
- Resource evaluation- Curiosity Boxes
- Resource evaluation- Home School learning ideas- including Whizz Pop Bang
- Education research Matters- How can EEF support improvement for science
- Leadership- Tackling my to do list- Priorities & focus

### **What are we doing new?**

The ask of transition is, as a result of COVID-19, now bigger and more demanding than it has ever been. Managing the knowledge deficit is no longer a key issue simply for yr 6 to yr 7 but is a key issue for every year group as teachers have to plan to meet the inevitable gaps that will exist from school closures. Science across the city intends to produce, in partnership with national stakeholders, a map/ grid to clearly show for each year group- What might have been missed that pupils will not meet again and what can teachers do about it? What topics might be condensed? How do you cover increased content without compromising the nature of scientific enquiry? The guidance will be quality assured and made available to all schools. Stoke schools will be supported with face to face meetings, virtual forums, with curriculum consultants to understand the guidance and to ask questions directly. These meetings will be offered as co-attendance, SL & relevant year group teachers yr 6-yr 7 teachers, yr 5 & yr 6, etc. See eventbrite dates to book a place as relevant, as many as you require.

### **Our team comments at this unique time**

The identity of science as a body of best fit evidence and the need for critical thinking and analytical conclusions is currently high profile for every person in society, all our children, parents, staff and the full community. It is essential that the development of scientific skills for our young people continues to support scientific literacy, citizenship and the future workforce. Science is a core subject for the primary curriculum and is not a collection of facts but rather an understanding

of the process of problem solving through enquiry. Stoke on Trent it is very fortunate to have the OA funding to embed child led enquiry for deep learning in every school and every classroom.

All at the KS2 science project wish you all well and are keen to be responsive to all bespoke requests whenever we can, Tina 07969 601913.

Regards  
 Karen Peters & Tina Whittaker

### At a glance -Event Bookings

<p>Primary Science          What is the plan?          Short briefing- What can you expect from the OA primary science project          28<sup>th</sup> April 10am VC- book ahead</p>	<p><a href="https://satcsummer2020briefing.eventbrite.co.uk">https://satcsummer2020briefing.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p>
<p>Teach-meet          Range of themes- select those that are most useful to you or signpost colleagues to those that matter to them          Join as many as you find helpful</p>	<p><a href="https://forms.gle/cAiSYDyA73XQrpMZ6">https://forms.gle/cAiSYDyA73XQrpMZ6</a></p>
<p>TAPS Autumn 2020          New launch &amp; Catch up          Open to all- Fully funded for Stoke Schools OA-Register interest – Dates to be confirmed</p>	<p><a href="https://tapsstokeautumn2020.eventbrite.co.uk">https://tapsstokeautumn2020.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p>
<p>TDS Autumn 2020          New Cohort          Open to all- Register interest- Dates &amp; funding to be confirmed</p>	<p><a href="https://tdtsstokeautumn2020.eventbrite.co.uk">https://tdtsstokeautumn2020.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p>
<p>SATC Network North          Virtual SL face to face forum with Helen Spring          Share useful tips for science at home &amp; ask a question that might help your planning for next year.</p>	<p><a href="https://satcnetworknorth.eventbrite.co.uk">https://satcnetworknorth.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p>
<p>SATC Network South          Virtual SL face to face forum with Helen Spring          Share useful tips for science at home &amp; ask a question that might help your planning for next year.</p>	<p><a href="https://satcnetworksouth.eventbrite.co.uk">https://satcnetworksouth.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p>