



CATHOLIC
TEACHING
ALLIANCE

IN UNITY,
LEADING
LEARNING

New Beginnings

The Catholic Teaching Alliance is underpinned by a shared passion to train and develop outstanding and inspirational teachers who are highly employable and dedicated professionals. We aim to deliver the Catholic school leaders of tomorrow.

In September 2014 we entered a new era. A total of 27 graduates were recruited, ready to undertake their PGCE with the Catholic Teaching Alliance. Together in unity with our partner schools we are now able to offer an outstanding training programme validated by the University of Cumbria.

During the first few weeks our secondary trainees have had a wealth of experiences at the University of Cumbria and across our alliance schools. Trainees have now spent time in their first placement schools observing outstanding practitioners and working on their first assignment '*Learning across and beyond the Curriculum*'.

Primary trainees are currently in their home school. Training opportunities have included sessions at the University of Cumbria, St Anthony's training hub, Our Lady's Catholic

High School and at Tabor. They are busy completing their first assignment '*Meeting Children and Young People's Needs within and beyond the Curriculum*'.



Future Catholic Leaders



The Catholic Teaching Alliance is committed to working collaboratively with all our partners in order to build a reputation as an outstanding provider. We aim to immerse the trainee teacher into the holistic life of the school with Catholic values and principles rooted firmly at the centre of all that we do. Trainees are given the opportunity to train and work alongside outstanding practitioners to share ideas and build knowledge together.

Our trainees joined in the celebration of the Education Mass at Lancaster Cathedral on the 3rd October where they were commissioned by the Bishop. A week later they were enjoying a retreat at Castlerigg Manor. Never a dull moment!

We wish all the trainees our best wishes over the coming weeks as they start to teach our pupils across the Catholic Teaching Alliance.

IN UNITY, LEAD

Take a fresh look at CPD

There is strength and outstanding practice in every one of our schools. Our collective ambition and vision for the CTA will ensure that these strengths will be recognised, celebrated and shared. In unity we can build strength, sharing best practice and developing best practice in a centralised, localised approach: this will ultimately drive improvement in the attainment of our children and young people.

We are looking to put together some key training packages for primary and secondary schools in our alliance.

We started off this journey by asking our alliance partners for training needs and also for them to identify strengths that they can share with others.

If you would like to organise a training event at your school for the CTA we will be able to assist you with the administration and marketing of such an event. We can also assist you with providing a venue or alternatively you can offer your school as the venue (this is particularly important for schools in the far north of the alliance).

By using our own outstanding colleagues we can keep prices to a minimum but also provide training that is up to date, innovative, has credibility and most important of all, meets our needs.

Below are some of the courses that we have already planned and/or delivered for our primary and secondary schools so far.



St Bernard's
Catholic
High School



Polish up your Primary French

With the promise to 'Bring your rusty French up to speed and gain the confidence to competently deliver the new Primary Languages curriculum' delegates found this to be an "Outstanding course" during which "Mary was good at not making me freeze with embarrassment!"

Teach Primary Science

For those who are new to teaching Primary Science and may be worried by the emphasis on 'hands on science' in the new National Curriculum. Try out some simple practicals and identify the key changes to the syllabus at KS1 and KS2.

Achieving Success in your first year teaching Mathematics

For NQTs and non-specialists teaching Mathematics in secondary schools - offers tips and advice on making the most of this most important first year.



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

ING LEARNING

Meet our SLEs Specialist Leaders in Education



Ciara Porter

Area of Specialism:
History, Sociology, Humanities

I have worked in Catholic High School Education for the past 11 years, 7 of them leading a History department that has gone from strength to strength, producing some of the best Historians at GCSE level, many of them recognised in the top 1% nationally.

I am also responsible for the coordination and development of Teaching and Learning, a job I have relished as it is the pedagogy and the constant drive to challenge and engage pupils in the classroom that I really enjoy.



John Hankin

Area of Specialism:
Geography

In 2013, I was appointed as Principal Teacher of Geography at Our Lady's and our GCSE results placed us as number one in Lancashire for achievement and in the top 1% nationally. I have completed an MA in teaching and learning and have supported several departments in the North West. The success of this work was recognised by the Geographical Association in 2014, awarding Our Lady's 'Centre of Excellence' status for Geography; one of only 10 schools nationally to receive this award.



Mary Tuson

Area of Specialism:
Mathematics

I am passionate about teaching Mathematics and fascinated by how children learn. I have had 30 years' experience teaching Mathematics and 12 years leading departments. I have also worked as a secondary Mathematics consultant for Lancashire LEA. I see my new role as a Specialist Leader in Education for Mathematics as an opportunity to work with and support fellow Mathematics teachers to foster a 'can do' culture in their teams and hence raise the expectations of their pupils.



George Kulbacki

Area of Specialism:
English and Exclusion

My link with Our Lady's began in 1986 on a school placement. Since then I have worked in four secondary schools before arriving back at Our Lady's in 2003 as Principal Teacher of English. I have been involved in a number of important initiatives, working closely with the LEA's advisory and consultancy service. These have involved establishing KS3 and KS4 resources on the Lancashire Moodle, and taking a lead role in the recent Assessment Without Levels initiative.



Alan O'Donohoe

Area of Specialism:
ICT and Computing

I have over 20 years' teaching experience and 10 years leadership experience. I introduced Computing into our school curriculum in 2007 and started teaching GCSE Computing in September 2011.

An active member of Computing At School, I've been holding monthly hub meetings in Preston since 2012 and helped others establish their own hubs. As the first Computing At School Master Teacher I have trained over 1000 teachers helping them prepare to teach Computing from Key Stage 1 to GCSE.

With a focus on pedagogy, I share my resources and approaches through a weekly podcast and blog. Outside of school I established Raspberry Jam and Hack To The Future events to inspire the digital creators of tomorrow.



Julia Scott

Area of Specialism:
School Business Management

Having worked in an educational/financial environment for over 25 years, combined with obtaining a Masters degree in Business Administration, I believe I have gained valuable experience and expertise.

As a highly motivated and responsible manager I continually strive to deliver excellent support services underpinning the ability of a school to excel in the primary function of delivering teaching and learning.

I feel strongly that having worked both with and within schools for many years I appreciate and understand the challenges and difficulties faced in this constantly changing environment.

We are currently recruiting further SLEs to work across the alliance. For more details see our web site.

If you would like further information about the support we can offer please contact us at cta@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

Research and Development

Developing Literacy

Our original research task was to develop the literacy of FSM KS4 pupils. In order to ensure that pupils make excellent progress from KS2 to KS4, the 'Reading and Writing Challenge' scheme was set up in collaboration with:

- **Corpus Christi Catholic High School, Preston**
- **St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic High School, Preston**
- **Christ the King Catholic Maths and Computing School, Preston**
- **Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster**
- **Our Lady's Catholic High School, Preston.**

However, at Our Lady's, Preston, we have moved the scheme to KS3. This is due to the realisation that, for the intervention to be successful, it must begin earlier. Therefore, Pupil Premium pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 have been tested

and their specific weaknesses in either reading or writing have been identified. Furthermore, any pupil who did not achieve a Level 4 at KS2 has also been tested.

Several members of staff now have timetabled 'Intervention' lessons with targeted pupils. This is a ten week programme that is largely based on 'Reading and writing' schemes that were a part of the 'National Strategies.'

At the end of the programme, pupils will be assessed again against their specific target and what progress has been made will be identified. If the pupil requires further intervention, a new target will be set.

Humanities project

SLEs John Hankin and Ciara Porter have arranged for past pupils who are studying history or geography A levels to mentor pupils in the current year 11 with a focus on closing the gap for target groups of pupils: boys, SEN and Pupil Premium. The mentors come into school once a week for an hour and work with the pupils on key skills and knowledge that they are struggling with. Each mentor fills in a log at the end of every session with progress made and targets for next week. We will be tracking the impact through assessments in class and mock exam results. Each mentor will be paid about £40 per half term but more importantly they have valuable experience working in schools and may be our 'home grown trainees' for the CTA in the future.



Cardinal Newman College

Get involved

We are committed to delivering on our 6 key principles, to:

- play a greater role in training new entrants to the profession
 - lead peer-to-peer learning
 - spot and nurture leadership potential
 - provide support for other schools
 - designate and broker Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs)
 - engage in research and development
- and we are grateful for your continued support on our journey together.

"I invite every school to consider how you might contribute to one or more of these six areas and encourage you to work with our Teaching School Alliance..."

Canon Luiz Ruscillo, Lancaster
Diocesan Education Service



How can we help?

Contact us cta@olchs.lancs.sch.uk
Visit our web site www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org
Follow us on **Twitter** @CTA_North