

Yorkshire TA Network

www.yorkshiretanetwork.co.uk

Dear Colleagues,

Hello everyone! Welcome to our first newsletter, we hope you find the information contained useful. If you have any colleagues who would benefit also from receiving this newsletter, please let us know and we can get them signed up to the network. The Network will release a Newsletter every term to help provide its members with highlights from the previous term, useful information and upcoming training or events. Ideally, the newsletter will become somewhere members can share best practices, give feedback on interventions, or simply share something useful with others. If you have anything you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please get in touch at

tanetwork@settrington.n-yorks.sch.uk

Kind regards,
Catherine TA Network Coordinator

This month

This month the network has a focus on **Mental Health** due to its importance and the high percentage of our members who highlighted it as a concern when joining. We hope you find the following information useful.



**YORKSHIRE
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Upcoming Events

Tuesday 24th November

Children's Mental Health

30th November

Speech and Language

Wednesday 8th December

**Self-Regulation, Attachment,
ACE's and Resilience**

Important Announcement

Our first **TA Conference** is being held at Raven Hall, Ravenscar on 16th November. Unfortunately, all tickets are sold out, but there will be recordings of some of the sessions available on our website after the event. If you wanted a ticket, please let me know and I will add you to the cancellation list.

Important Information

As individuals and teaching assistants, **Mental Health** is on many of our minds. In schools, support staff are working with more and more children who are suffering with their mental health. Additionally, some staff are finding their own mental health a struggle and knowing where to find support isn't always easy. It is thought 74% of teachers and education staff have experienced symptoms of poor mental health due to their work.

Education Support are the only UK charity dedicated to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of teachers and education staff in schools, colleges and universities. Visit their website for more information, support, and resources:

<https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/>

This website also has lots of ideas on how to look after your own mental health including simple ideas you can incorporate into your daily life:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/how-to-mental-health>

Please also see our upcoming session on how and where to access support for Children's Mental Health on Tuesday 24th November.



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To book your place on any of the upcoming courses, please click on the link to Eventbrite or visit our website

www.yorkshiretanetwork.co.uk/

Email:

tanetwork@settrington.n-yorks.sch.uk

Upcoming Opportunity

If you are a parent or know parents who are suffering with anxiety, The Parenting with Anxiety project is testing a new online course. It is to help parents who experience anxiety, and their children, so they can become more confident together. If this is something you are interested in follow this link to sign up:

<https://www.parentingwithanxiety.org.uk/>

Upcoming Training Sessions

- **24th November 4pm Mental Health**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/childrens-mental-health-tickets-202444024527>

- **30th November 4pm Elkan Speech and Language**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/elkan-speech-and-language-tickets-204380867677>

- **8th December Self-regulation, Resilience, ACE's**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/self-regulation-attachment-adverse-childhood-experiences-and-resilience-tickets-202453252127>

- **17th January Primary Alcohol and drug misuse**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drug-and-alcohol-awareness-primary-tickets-204980751947>

- **19th January Secondary Alcohol and drug misuse**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drug-and-alcohol-awareness-secondary-tickets-204983500167>

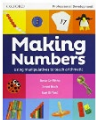
Reading Recommendations

Below are some books and articles I've been recommended to help with supporting children in Maths and to help improve your subject knowledge:

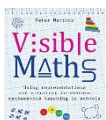
<https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/maths-language-skills/>



Yes, but why? Teaching for understanding in mathematics.



Making Numbers: Using manipulatives to teach arithmetic.



Visible Maths: Using representations and structure to enhance mathematics teaching in schools.



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The EEF Website contains lots of interesting and useful guidance reports, which cover many subject areas.

Please find the link below:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports>

A note from Abi Joachim TA Network Coordinator in Suffolk

Growing a Network of Networks

I never planned on becoming a teaching assistant and really didn't know much about what the role entailed but, after twenty years, I truly believe that is one of the best jobs in the world. Unfortunately, as the role has changed and grown over the years to the highly-skilled profession it now is, career progression and development has failed to keep up.

In 2019, I was asked by my SENDCo to complete an evidence-based practice fund application with the Ipswich Opportunity Area (IOA) for a collaborative project on 'Making Best Use of Teaching Assistants'. It was clear from the initial project that TAs had little chance to liaise with other staff and that their CPD opportunities were sometimes limited or did not meet individual needs. After a number of discussions with relevant organisations, we created the concept of a Suffolk TA Network to support and promote the work of teaching assistants across the county through a range of training and networking opportunities.

With continued funding from the IOA, I launched the network via a series of online events between December 2020 and February 2021. The network has gone from strength to strength and now has a thriving membership of over 340 teaching assistants from a range of different settings throughout Suffolk.

Our members receive a half-termly newsletter full of articles by TAs sharing best practice, features from relevant external agencies, a 'research corner', a resource/book review and a programme of training and networking events. Since we launched, our members have attended training sessions on topics including autism, confidence, gambling awareness and dyslexia.

This academic year, we will be launching a peer buddying scheme to link TAs from different schools together on an area of professional development and a YouTube training channel for TA top tips.

It has been so lovely to hear the positive impact the Suffolk TA Network is having on its members with reported improvements in access to training, skills and knowledge and confidence and self-esteem. I am thrilled to now be supporting TAs like Catherine to develop networks in other areas and I would love to think it won't be long before we have a TA network in every county in England.



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Please sign up to the network if you haven't already by using this link:

<https://forms.gle/NeRATPoDpjtrvLpe9>