

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome back to a new term and a new academic year.

Last term was as busy as ever for us, not least because we were putting the final touches to our new OLEVI website.

The website will become the backbone of our communications with you. Keeping you up-to-date with programme information – with the facility to book a programme online – access to our resources and sharing up-to-the-minute education news. We envisage the website evolving over time, incorporating additional functionality and growing to create an OLEVI community.

The development of our Designated OLEVI Centres, or DOCs as we like to call them, has been progressing at quite a pace. We have had a number of conceptualisation days together to look at how best to push forward a number of new projects and programmes. This term sees one of those new programmes – the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme (OTAP), which was piloted by The Earls High School with very positive outcomes – being rolled out across all our other DOCs nationwide.

We were particularly excited about the visit by Paul McClenaghan and his steering group of Heads from Northern Ireland. The group has secured funding

for a two-year programme working with OLEVI to roll-out our ITP and OTP to schools across Northern Ireland.

Last, but by no means least, we are delighted to welcome a new member to our OLEVI team, Karen Hughes, who has joined as Director of Quality Assurance. Karen introduces herself on page 4 and talks of the pivotal role QA has in ensuring quality and high standards are maintained throughout the growing network of OLEVI facilitators.

Have an exciting new term.



George Berwick



Richard Lockyer

OLEVI launches its new website

We are delighted to announce the launch of www.olevi.co.uk

Along with detailed information about us and all our programmes you will be able to book a programme place online, see what is up and coming in our events calendar and view the details of all the schools and Designated OLEVI Centres accredited to facilitate our programmes.

Over the coming months we plan to enhance the services and facilities our website provides. Building up a community of delegates and of those individuals who share the OLEVI vision – of raising the quality of teaching and improving learning outcomes. This will include the use of forums and discussion boards and providing additional teaching and learning resource guides in a library of resources.

Please take time to have a look. Your thoughts and comments are valued, welcome and necessary to ensure we deliver a teaching and learning community suitable for your needs.

Please contact Julia Ward-Hastelow: julia@olevi.co.uk with your feedback.



Growing a culture of excellence

Designated OLEVI Centres play a pivotal role in expanding the reach of the OLEVI ethos

OLEVI programmes run throughout England and Wales, in Canada and Ireland, and impact the performance of hundreds of teachers every year. While OLEVI is physically based in Kent and is the centre of operations, much of our work is carried out via our Designated OLEVI Centres, or DOCs.

DOCs play a pivotal role in the provision of our programmes. In addition to delivering the ITP and OTP they also provide training for schools in their area by running higher level programmes, such as the OFF, which accredit delegates to run teaching programmes in their own schools. In this way, we can ensure that high quality, well facilitated programmes are available to schools in different areas throughout the country.

However, DOCs are more than vehicles through which the programmes and training run. They form a central role in our developing network and drive the OLEVI principles of collaborative learning, developing leadership through coaching and growing from the top.

We value the contributions that our DOCs have made to OLEVI and have plans to develop additional DOCs to ensure that the best practice remains at the heart of OLEVI and that all areas of the country have the opportunity to access OLEVI programmes.

THOUGHT FOR THE TERM

Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.

Chinese proverb

NEWS FROM OUR DESIGNATED OLEVI CENTRES IN ENGLAND



Our Designated OLEVI Centres in England have worked and grown with OLEVI over the years. They share our aims and ethos and can facilitate the full range of OLEVI programmes. They also provide accreditation and quality assurance within their regions.

- ① Ravens Wood School, Bromley
- ② Ashton-on-Mersey School, Cheshire
- ③ Earls High School, Birmingham
- ④ Lampton School, Hounslow
- ⑤ Third Wave, Milton Keynes

Outstanding is just the beginning

Ros Bartlett, Assistant Headteacher of The Earls High School, talks of their role as a DOC and the impact OLEVI programmes are having.

"The Earls High School facilitates a number of OLEVI programmes to schools both locally and nationally. Since becoming an Designated OLEVI Centre we have facilitated a number of Outstanding Facilitation Programmes (OFF), including a recent programme for Challenge Partner schools.

The feedback from delegates attending the programmes continues to be very positive and Headteachers are noting the impact of the programmes following their recent Ofsted inspections.

Allison Owens, Headteacher, World's End Junior School comments:

“Both the ITP and OTP programmes provided by The Earls has had an enormous impact on raising the quality of teaching at World's End Junior School. Three of our teachers have been graded as 'outstanding' for the first time in their careers. The rapid improvement was recognised by Ofsted in January 2013.”

Following our recent work with Swindon Academy Nick Wells, Deputy Head, states:

“The opportunities to review aspects of pedagogy, which we know have an impact on learning in the classroom, to observe the students and teachers at The Earls and to carry out Joint Practice Development back at school have been greatly beneficial to our teachers. We will because of this impact, be looking to place more staff on these programmes in the future.”

At Earls we are continually exploring ways to develop the programmes. This has led The Earls to work more closely with Wolverhampton University and Richard Lockyer in accrediting the OTP with credits towards a Masters Degree.

Initial feedback has been very encouraging and delegates have welcomed the opportunity to explore how critical reflection on educational research can further enhance their practice. The opportunity to discuss the latest research is being developed across all programmes.

In addition we have been fortunate to work alongside Richard Lockyer in developing an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme (OTAP). Headteachers and delegates are telling us that this is having a huge impact on the role of the TA in the mainstream classroom. A delegate who recently completed the programme said:

“I have found a whole new enthusiasm for how I approach work...I now believe in myself and I am more aware of how I encourage children to develop their learning.”

Finally, during the summer term we carried out more QA visits to the schools we have been involved in through OFF. This enables us to continue those learning conversations which help to grow the programmes in developing system leadership across our schools.'

OLEVI expands in Northern Ireland

September sees the start of an exciting two-year programme to roll-out the OLEVI programmes to schools in Northern Ireland



From left to right: Mark Suckling, Paul McClenaghan, Carmel McCartan (front), Caroline Karayiannis, Richard Lockyer (front), Paul Bell

Last term OLEVI was delighted to welcome Paul McClenaghan, Principal of Strandtown Primary School, Belfast, along with the three fellow Heads from schools in Northern Ireland.

Their visit was a particular cause for celebration, as it marks the beginning of a two-year programme to roll out OLEVI's Improving Teacher, Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding Facilitator Programmes to schools in Northern Ireland.

Funding for the programme has come from Atlantic Philanthropies – a charity that funds the development of Education in Northern Ireland – and will be evaluated by Queens University Belfast.

Paul McClenaghan, who has been the driving force behind the project, established the steering group: Teaching

& Learning Schools Northern Ireland, to develop the two-year programme across Northern Ireland. The group will facilitate OLEVI programmes to 20 schools, working together in clusters of five Hubs.

The package of programmes will help schools involved in the project improve the quality of teaching and learning and leadership to help bring about sustainable whole school change.

Our guests attended the QA training to become accredited OLEVI Quality Assurance Consultants. This will enable them to ensure the quality and content of the OLEVI Programmes delivered in the project are of the highest standard.

This is an exciting time for us all and we look forward to the rewards this venture will bring.

OLEVI launches new Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme (OTAP)

We at OLEVI have long recognised the importance of the Teaching Assistant's role in teaching and learning, valuing the unique knowledge and perspective they bring to the learning experience and learning outcomes of children.

This term sees the launch of our brand new programme the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme (OTAP). Piloted successfully last year by The Earls High School the programme is now being provided across our OLEVI network.

OTAP is for teaching assistants who are, or who have the potential to be, outstanding in their roles. It is intended to develop the potential for TAs to have a wider impact on improving the quality of teaching and learning across the school.

The course participants will:-

- ▲ Place a greater emphasis on the purpose and value of the lessons they support
- ▲ Raise levels of engagement and achievement in learning
- ▲ Use different methods and styles of support to challenge learners
- ▲ Innovate and take risks
- ▲ Have a bigger impact on the planning and assessment for the learners they support
- ▲ Demonstrate a higher level understanding of teaching and learning
- ▲ Be able to coach colleagues to raise performance

Each programme comprises five sessions over five or six weeks. The key ingredient is the opportunity to share previous experience, existing expertise and new learning with colleagues in a safe, supportive and challenging environment.

Participants will feel inspired and motivated to take their learning back into their schools, to make an immediate impact in their own practice, with the pupils they support, their SEN colleagues and the wider teaching staff.

For further information about the programme please contact Mona Bhatti: mona@olevi.co.uk.

DESIGNATED OLEVI CENTRES – CONTACT DETAILS

ASHTON-ON-MERSEY	EARLS HIGH SCHOOL	LAMPTON SCHOOL	RAVENS WOOD SCHOOL
Cecil Avenue Sale Cheshire M33 5BP Tel: 0161 973 1179	Furnace Lane, Halesowen West Midlands B63 3SL. Tel: 01384 816105	Lampton Avenue Hounslow TW3 4EP Tel: 0208 572 1936	Oakley Road Bromley BR2 8HP Tel: 01689 856050/508
Contact: Nick Parry	Contact: Ros Bartlett	Contact: Jacqui Smith	Contact: Rebecca Howard-Wearn

Quality Assurance – the way ahead

Karen Hughes, OLEVI's new Director of Quality Assurance, introduces her role and the growing importance of quality and high standards in facilitation



I am delighted to introduce myself to you as the most recent addition to the OLEVI leadership team. My role is Director of Quality Assurance and my focus is to co-ordinate, strengthen and further develop OLEVI's QA work.

Having worked with OLEVI in the past as both facilitator and client, I am well placed to support our commitment to ensuring that our programme design and facilitation is maintained at the highest standard.

Over the years, OLEVI has developed a robust Quality Assurance (QA) process that not only ensures continued high standards but gives us a vehicle for continual refinement and review of the programmes. We ensure that Quality Assurance is carried out consistently and to a high standard by drawing upon our growing team of accredited consultants who have undergone rigorous OLEVI QA Training.

The QA Process

There is an entitlement that one in three programmes have a QA visit by an OLEVI accredited QA consultant; where less than three programmes run a year, the entitlement is for one visit a year. The QA visit not only assures the quality of the programme but develops the facilitator.

The consultant observes a session in progress, interacts with the delegates, meets with the facilitators and discusses the programme with the Headteacher to evaluate the impact of the programmes on the learning of the delegates and the home school. Development feedback is offered to facilitators during and after the session and a write up that summarises the content and learning points discussed on the day is sent to the centre within two weeks for the facilitators to agree.

Certain Programme Non-negotiables – centred on the basic expectations in relation to practical arrangements and the

pervasion of the underlying principles of the programmes – are required and part of the QA process is to check these. This ranges from ensuring that the programme logistics are being adhered to, through to checking that DR ICE® is being modelled, to considering if the programme is being seen by delegates as an investment in themselves by their school. In attending our programme the school shows it values the delegate's potential and is willing to invest to see that potential grow.

Shining a Light on Facilitation

QA consultants do not come to centres to 'inspect', but to shine a light on what is going on, utilising our own DR ICE® to evaluate the facilitation. A lot can be gleaned from observing a session in progress and interacting with delegates.

The particular strengths and achievements of the facilitator come into focus and feeding these back is a positive, developmental process that allows the facilitator to self-assuredly build upon their strengths and model them confidently to others. Areas for development are also openly explored with facilitators. Ongoing feedback from facilitators tells that the QA process is a constructive, affirming experience that builds confidence and develops skills.

Our approach to QA ensures that the standard of facilitation is constantly being reviewed and developed. As QA consultants, we have the privilege of observing a range of facilitators in a wide variety of contexts and are able to observe how different centres take ownership of the programmes and develop best practice. This helps us to grow.

Part of the quality assurance process is to share this good practice across the OLEVI network and utilise the training to keep the programmes current, fresh and relevant to meet the needs of an ever changing educational landscape.

I look forward meeting and working with you in your schools and, as the programmes develop, welcome you as QA consultants in the future to our growing QA team.'

NEWS IN BRIEF

OLEVI Conceptualisation Days

This term sees OLEVI facilitating a number of our Conceptualisation Days. These allow us to give a taster of OLEVI programmes and their benefits to groups of Headteachers looking to improve the quality of Teaching and Learning within their own schools and provide effective CPD for their staff as part of an overall school improvement plan.

The first of these days was attended by 30 Headteachers from the Tandridge Schools Partnership. A productive and rewarding day was had by the attendees and we look forward to working with you in the future.

More Nigerian Headteachers to experience OLEVI programmes

Following the successful visit last March, of a group of Nigerian Leaders in Education to OLEVI, we are delighted to announce a further visit this autumn, of an additional 12 delegates. Our guests will attend OLEVI's Leadership Immersion Course; including Teaching and Learning activities, Learning Walks with members of the Senior Management Team and QA Questions & Answer Sessions.

OLEVI licence agreements

If you are a facilitator or a facilitation school you are required to register for your licence to deliver the OLEVI ITP and OTP programmes.

The licence runs for one academic year and is reviewed annually, which allows us to protect the quality of our programmes. If you need to register or require further information please contact Mona Bhatti: mona@olevi.co.uk

**LIKE RIPPLES ON A POND
OLEVI PROGRAMMES HAVE
FAR REACHING EFFECTS**