



The Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme (OTAP)



The Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme 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 Teaching Assistants to have a wider impact on improving the quality of teaching and learning across the school. Designed and facilitated by experienced school leaders and teachers the OTAP forms part of the OLEVI Teaching & Learning Syllabus which has gained a national reputation for raising standards in teaching and learning.



Objectives

OTAP enables teaching assistants to:

- ▲ 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 their peers to raise performance



Impact

“The OTAP has raised the profile of the teaching/learning assistant to a position in schools where they are being taken seriously as a profession and valued. It is having a very positive effect on our children’s learning and creating excellent working relationships with other staff members across the school.”

Leah Crawley, Headteacher, Burnt Ash Primary School



Vision

To give the teaching profession the tools and strategies; challenge and inspiration to engage in excellence – raising the quality of teaching practice to ensure every student in every school enjoys outstanding teaching and learning outcomes.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme (OTAP)



The programme focuses on a range of aspects of teaching and learning such as: challenge, engagement, assessment, differentiation, questioning and planning. There are facilitated practical sessions and lesson observations at the host school, with linked practical tasks back in your own school to apply what you learn.

The OTAP content includes:

- ▲ understanding what an outstanding teaching assistant looks like?
- ▲ key definitions and audits of strengths & weaknesses
- ▲ coaching for deep learning
- ▲ new learning on differentiation
- ▲ creating and leading an in-school project
- ▲ developing a success criteria
- ▲ what is effective questioning?
- ▲ action planning and evaluation

The programme enables delegates to share ideas and strategies to help move their school's forward. Delegates gain confidence in feeling able to voice their views and ideas, and feel empowered to take the lead in their development as "learning assistants", with a focus on facilitating the pupils learning experience.

Eligibility

This programme is for teaching assistants who are, or who have the potential to be outstanding in their roles.

Impact

Head teachers and delegates are telling us that the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme is having a huge impact on the role of the TA in the modern classroom:

"The OTAP has clarified and confirmed the role of teaching assistants in facilitating learning. It has also ensured that teaching assistants are an intrinsic part of school-to-school partnership working"

Ruth Cutting, Headteacher, Olive Hill Primary School

"I now have a better understanding of how to encourage my students to push themselves. Talking with other TAs

gave me the opportunity to gain knowledge from their experiences. I have been especially impressed by how much as a secondary school assistant, I can take from my primary school colleagues. I will use the tools and knowledge I have gained to help me engage students more effectively."

Ciáran O'Rooke, Teaching Assistant, Broadway Academy

"The OTAP has made me realise that my role is important. I feel more confident and have rediscovered my enthusiasm."

Sue Feather, Teaching Assistant, Brindley Heath Junior School

"Learning more about and gaining a deeper understanding of Blooms Taxonomy and DR ICE® has given me more confidence on how to ask questions that challenge and stretch the child's learning."

Salma Aziz, Teaching Assistant, Olive Hill Primary School

Commitment

Each programme comprises of five morning sessions over five consecutive 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. Delegates must attend all sessions to be accredited.

Cost

RRP £435 (+or-5% excluding VAT) per delegate.

"The Bigger Picture"

The OTAP is just one of the programmes in the OLEVI Teaching & Learning Syllabus developed by OLEVI to drive up standards in schools. Structured around the ethos and principles of the DR ICE® learning model our programmes support the growth of education professionals at every level, to create a successful teaching and learning culture that leaves a lasting legacy.



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