

Dovestone Learning Partnership

Welcome to our Dovestone Learning Partnership newsletter.

We are aiming to send out a newsletter each term to update you on the DLP activities. This is our autumn term edition.

The DLP is a Co-operative Trust which was established in October 2017.
We are a partnership of 9 schools:

- Christ Church Denshaw C.E. Primary School
- Delph Primary School
- Diggle Primary School
- Friezland Primary School
- Knowsley Junior School
- Saddleworth School
- St Agnes C.E. Primary School
- St Mary's Greenfield C.E. Primary School
- St Thomas' Leesfield C.E. Primary School



General Update

It has been a busy term for the partnership. We started the new academic year reviewing and planning our activities.

As a partnership we have four working parties that support our work: School Improvement, Well-being, Financial Efficiencies & Curriculum and Transition. All have met and updated action plans to reflect our priorities.

Several training programmes were started for: Literacy, Teaching Assistants, Mid-day staff and Coaching. Our Sports competitions have also started again.

Networks are running for Geography, Science, Early Years, Moderation and SEND. With more to come in the Spring Term.

Peer Reviews have also begun again with a planned schedule throughout the year. St Agnes was the first school to take part partnering with Friezland. Julie Stevens is our external consultant and supporting the reviews.

It is good to be getting everything back on track following the pandemic.

Staff Event

In October we ran a staff development event at Saddleworth School. Huw Lloyd from Pivotal Behaviour Education gave an engaging and thought provoking presentation based on 'Consistency, Certainty and Behaviour Change'.



The session was based around the 5 principles of Behaviour and Cultural Change including:

- Consistent calm behaviour
- Sustainable routines
- First attention to best conduct
- Scripted interventions
- Restorative approaches

Following the morning's input, staff went back to their own school to work together on developing behaviour strategies.

As one head said: "We are very confident in the behaviour management strategies we use, but this course has enabled us to review and refine our practice."

Counselling

The DLP are delighted to have been able to commission the services of Debbie Pietkiewicz of Concentric Circles Counselling to work with children, families and staff at DLP schools for the remainder of this academic year.



Debbie has a wealth of experience in delivering counselling services. Heads have found more mental health issues with children and families following the pandemic and increasing opportunities to counselling support has been an ambition for the partnership. Each school will receive up to an additional 3 hours a week during term time for Debbie to help the school in whatever way they feel necessary. That may be direct counselling with children, support for families, training for staff or developing courses for families. Do contact school directly if you would like to discuss accessing Debbie's services.

Some dates to note for the Spring Term

The DLP will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 6 February 2023 at 5.00 pm @ Saddleworth School

The DLP Music Festival will be held on 30 March 2023 at Saddleworth School

Further information on both events

Keep UpToDate with the DLP

At the end of the last academic year we formed a Communications Group to look at how we could enhance our communications across the DLP and with our partners and stakeholders. We are pleased to announce we can now be found on:

Facebook – search for Dovestone Learning Partnership – follow us – give us a like and receive regular updates

Instagram – we can be found at [dovestonelearningpartnership](https://www.instagram.com/dovestonelearningpartnership)

Twitter – find us at [@DovestoneLP](https://twitter.com/DovestoneLP)

Regular posts will be made and over the coming months we hope you will be able to use these forums to find out more about what we do and use them to communicate with us. Tell us what you think.

Our website is also now live but will be undergoing some updating. Here you will find more detailed information about the DLP such as action plans, board meetings and our trustees.

www.dovestonelearningpartnership.co.uk

Meet the DLP! (This will become a regular feature to meet the staff within the DLP)



Today meet James Whittaker, Headteacher of St Thomas' Leesfield

In the summer of 2022, St Thomas' Leesfield and the DLP said goodbye to Mrs Paula Glynn, who had served the school, community and partnership for many happy years. It is now my absolute privilege to take over the Headteacher role, leading the school forwards and striving for excellence and the best possible outcomes for all within our Leesfield family and Dovestone Learning Partnership.

Having started my teaching career at St Thomas' over a decade ago, I have great experience working within a nurturing, high-quality and diverse environment, in which each and every child matters. Primarily I took on the role of a key stage 2 teacher, during which time I developed a thorough understanding of the demands of a broad and balanced curriculum that motivates and inspires children to be the best they can be. CPD opportunities within the DLP provided me with the opportunity to develop and refine a wealth of leadership skills and I progressed into the role of Assistant Headteacher, in September 2018. From there, through carefully planned working parties, I have used my knowledge and skill-set, as a local authority moderator, to lead moderation groups for the partnership, strengthening practice across our schools and ensuring effective cross-phase working and transition.

I have been fortunate enough to be involved in a plethora of DLP initiatives, since its formation, ranging from sporting events, to literary festivals and concerts and I have seen first-hand the positive impact such rich experiences have on our children, families and communities. As a former pupil of Saddleworth School myself, I am passionate about ensuring that our children and young people experience the best quality education, delivered by well-trained, effective teaching and support staff and driven by committed and dynamic leaders. We are proud to celebrate our unique character as individual schools, but through the values of respect, trust and solidarity we will ensure we are 'Stronger together for our pupils'.

To contact the DLP, either email your school's headteacher

or the DLP Facilitator at juliebowdidge@googlemail.com



The staff, pupils & governors would like to wish you all
**a very Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year**

Stay safe and well