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**THE AOC ASSOCIATE EXPERT NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024**



**WISDOM OF COLLEGES SESSIONS**

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We are planning one-off ‘Wisdom of College’ on-line webinars, led by our Experts to showcase effective practice. We have identified the following topics and will circulate meeting dates shortly.

• Data Protection

• Artificial Intelligence

• Supporting Mental Health

• Assistive Technology

Please contact us if you would like to learn more or are interested in running your own Wisdom of Colleges Session.

**MORE SUCCESS FOR OUR PARTNERS**

Some of our partner colleges have been celebrating success in the AoC Beacon Awards. In November, the following Partner Colleges found out they were Finalists:

Suffolk New College and New City College (Education for Sustainable Development)

Middlesbrough College (Excellence in Careers and Enterprise)

Coleg Cambria and Bridgwater & Taunton College (Support for Students)

New City College (Widening Participation)

East Kent Colleges Group (Excellence in Governance)

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In February 2024 the Beacon winners were announced- congratulations to Suffolk New College, Middlesbrough College, Bridgwater & Taunton College and East Kent College!

It was also fantastic news for three of our Partner Colleges who won Queens Anniversary Prizes for FE: Bridgwater & Taunton College, City College Plymouth, Hopwood Hall College and University Centre.

**THE COLLEGE COLLECTIVE APPROACH- UPDATE ON MATCHING**

All colleges that subscribed in 2023 are now on-boarded. Bournemouth and Poole College that joined in January 2024 are currently being on-boarded.

There is a huge amount of activity going on- over 220 engagements across all our partner colleges.

In addition to support matches, Experts are leading the Following Action Learning sets:

• Apprenticeships

• Learner Number Growth

• Sustainability

• Stakeholder Engagement

• English and Maths

• Marketing and Qualification Reform

If you or a colleague are interested in attending any of these Sets, any member of staff in a Partner College is welcome. Please let us know.

**ACTION LEARNING SET- ENGLISH AND MATHS**

A group of people in a video conference

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Fiona Mathews from New City College has been leading this Set. We have met twice, with interesting and varied contributions from over 13 Partner Colleges. Particular thanks to Olena for her excellent outline of practice regarding attendance at Weston College at our last meeting.

The Teams page for the Action learning Set is up and running. Attendees can use this as a space to share thoughts and ask questions, as well as it being the repository for our meetings.

We next meet on the 14th March and are planning the following topics:

**Creative recruitment of staff**. How might we attract who we need, or train who we attract?

**Measuring English and maths**. Achievement looks different in English and maths compared to other areas of the college! So, how can we best measure progress in year, and what other measures of success do we use, beyond comparison to very low national rates of achievement.

**Pre-induction and induction**. How should we jumpstart the year with resit learners?

We only have three more meetings for the year. However, the group is also considering an extra meeting to discuss a real and positive 'whole college approach'. How we present English and maths across college matters. How do we get the whole college involved with the commitment, collaboration, and (dare we say even) hope required to move resit learners forward?

**YOUR EXPERT ‘TO-DO’ LIST**

1. Please access and complete your Institute of Leadership modules once you are enrolled. You will receive an email from [membership@leadership.global](about:blank) with your log-in details. These are a significant benefit of this programme. On completion you will receive a certificate, post nominals and access to Professional Membership of The Institute of Leadership for 12 months.
2. Please make sure that you contact Kate, Simon or Graham if you have any problems contacting your partner college.
3. Once support has begun, please respond to Nat’s reminders and submit the records of your conversations and agreed aims and objectives. All templates can be found in the Handbook.

**AOC ASSOCIATE EXPERT NETWORKING**

The next virtual networking session is 6th March at 12 Noon.

**THE COLLEGE COLLECTIVE TEAMS SITE**

The Teams site for the 2023/24 College Collective is now live and can be accessed [via the link here](about:blank). The site is designed to be a central hub for member Colleges and Experts where you will find all the College Collective key information and documents, as well as it being a place to share and collaborate. Please contact nat@thekwp.co.uk if you have any feedback, queries or questions regarding the site, or if you would like a private channel created to progress work with your matched peer.