

## National Assessment Agency for ASTs and ETs

Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues such as : school workforce advisers and leading phase consultants, plus headteachers, teachers who may be interested in becoming ASTs or ETs and school advisers within your authority.

November 2009

### Newsletter

#### The National AST Conference

An audience of over 150 delegates enjoyed the first AST Annual Conference in July and were inspired and challenged by Sir Tim Brighouse and the other highly respected speakers. Since then many ASTs have kept in touch and have exchanged ideas about learning and teaching.

The second AST conference, designed for ASTs, aspirant ASTs and headteachers, will consider **The Impact of ASTs**. Its content will include

- the success that ASTs are enjoying both in their own and in their outreach schools
- the vast array of newly devised methodologies for measuring the strategic impact of ASTs on their schools and on their own pupils' learning.

Put the date, **1st July 2010**, in your diary now and look out for the invitations from the VT Conference Team early in the New Year.

#### National AST Network

The total number of users to the National AST Network to October 2009 is 1429. The national college moved to a new platform in mid-September with a new shortcut address <http://talk2learn.ncsl.org.uk//url/?XggIV>. The main page has had 7699 hits since it opened.

Sarah Bubb, who facilitates, the NCSL AST webpage, now has the contact details of 2049 ASTs. However many local authorities have not shared their lists of ASTs with Sarah. Do send details of your ASTs to Sarah, with their email addresses if you have not already done so at [sara.bubb@vtplc.com](mailto:sara.bubb@vtplc.com)



VT Group

#### Schools in challenging situations

Following the publication of the New Opportunities White Paper, earlier this year, many schools in challenging circumstances have expressed their intentions to avail themselves of the extra funding and to appoint ASTs or ETs.

Some of these schools have already presented their candidates for assessment and many more schools are assisting their aspirant ASTs in the compilation of their application forms and evidence bases.

Schools that qualify for this funding are still able to apply to the DCSF via [goldenhandcuffs@dcsf.co.uk](mailto:goldenhandcuffs@dcsf.co.uk).

Handcuffs can be offered up to 31 March 2011 and the AST funding is available only from three years from 1 September 2009 whenever you join. So, while there is plenty of time to apply and plenty of time to submit assessment application forms, the sooner you get on board the better.

Please note that there is no subject restriction on these applications.

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#### AST and ET Team

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The next LA Newsletter will  
be circulated in late  
January 2010.

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### The AST DVD-ROM

At the AST National Conference we launched the dual branded DVD-ROM 'ASTs Making a Difference'. The responses have been very positive and we hear many stories of its use in regional workshops, cluster groups and various conferences.

For ease of viewing the DVD-ROM is split into three sections:

- Why AST?
- AST Assessment
- What Does an AST Do?

It contains the most authoritative and up-to-date information about becoming an AST, applying, preparing for assessment and understanding what the assessor is looking for when s/he visits the school. We estimate that well over 90 per cent of the questions put to us via the telephone help-line are answered in this DVD. More free copies of the DVD are available, while stocks last, from [ASTandET@vtplc.com](mailto:ASTandET@vtplc.com).

### and finally..

as we move towards 2010 we will be starting to compile a series of fact sheets for schools and LAs about the assessment process and the wider aspects of recruiting, deploying and professionally developing ASTs. We would value the help of any co-ordinators who would like to work with us on any of these mini- publications and ask you to contact [pam.french@vtplc.com](mailto:pam.french@vtplc.com) if you are interested.

Thank you so much for all your work as a co-ordinator of ASTs. We do welcome the dialogue and partnerships that we have established together and welcome any others who have not, as yet, joined us at workshops, conferences or via our other 'E' networks. Please keep in contact by phone or email 01372 834282 or via [ASTandET@vtplc.com](mailto:ASTandET@vtplc.com).

**Martin Flatman**  
AST and ET Project Director,  
National Assessment Agency for ASTs and ETs

### Local Authority Workshops.

Two very successful workshops were held in October for LA coordinators. They were well attended, highly informative and with plenty of time for networking. Co-ordinators from all over the country converged on London to hear from the VT staff and one another about developing and inspiring ASTs and how some LAs are making great strides in tracking the career development of their ASTs.

Evaluation forms compiled on the two days indicate that many coordinators value the events very highly and appreciate the various handouts and top tips presented to them. Many feel that attendance at these events enable them to work more confidently and competently when back in their own LAs. The presence of colleagues from the DCSF at both workshops gave co-ordinators the opportunity to share their hopes and fears with those responsible for the overall success of the initiative.



### Diary dates for next LA Workshops:

25 March 2010  
30 March 2010

### New Web Address:

[www.advancedskills teachers.com](http://www.advancedskills teachers.com)

This will take you directly into the Advanced Skills Teachers Pages of the VT Group website. From there you can access AST and ET Guidance and application forms.

### AST National Conference 1st July 2010

Please let us know if you have any prospective speakers or ASTs who would like to run workshops at our conference from your local authority. Please send any information for the attention of Martin Flatman to [ASTandET@vtplc.com](mailto:ASTandET@vtplc.com).

If you have any subject that you would like to cover in an LA Workshop or Newsletter do let us know via [pam.french@vtplc.com](mailto:pam.french@vtplc.com).