



# What can S7 do for you?

Pursuing excellence through collaboration

[www.s7colleges.com](http://www.s7colleges.com)

S7 NEWSLETTER ISSUE 7

AUTUMN TERM 2015

- Do you have any news or a forthcoming event which would be of interest to S7 colleagues? Contact Sharon Kemp at [s7enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:s7enquiries@gmail.com) and we will add it to the next newsletter and the S7 website.

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## A Note from the Chair

This autumn term newsletter is a useful reminder of the way in which S7 has developed over the last decade and more and signposts the impressive variety of collaborative activities on offer. We can be proud of the training and development opportunities for staff at all levels of our colleges and of the support and inspiration provided through a regular schedule of meetings with a focus on particular job responsibilities. The Teaching and Learning Conference at Royal Holloway was last year's standout event for me and the positive feedback suggests that this was the case for most of those present. Looking forward to 2015/16, I must welcome BHASVIC to the S7 fold and I look forward to the fresh perspective representatives from another outstanding college are sure to bring to meetings and training events. There are clearly some challenges ahead, not least the outcome of the spending review and the prospect of Area Based Reviews, but as a united consortium we couldn't be better placed to weather the storm together. Here's to a productive 2015/16....

*Dan Dean, Chair of S7 and Principal of Esher College*



## S7 becomes 8—Welcome to BHASVIC

We are delighted to welcome Brighton, Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College (BHASVIC) as our newest members of the Consortium.

Graded as Outstanding by Ofsted in 2012, BHASVIC has approximately 2,500 students on roll, the majority of whom follow Level 3 courses.



Although new as members to the S7 Consortium, BHASVIC has been involved with us in a number of ways over the past ten or more years, sending staff members to our annual Leadership Programme and involving themselves in high level South East area activities.





## A New Look for the S7 Website

The S7 website has had a revamp and is now live: [www.s7colleges.com](http://www.s7colleges.com).

Following feedback, we have added an S7 Vacancies page to the website where teaching and support staff jobs across the eight colleges will be advertised.



We love the new look but the site will only work if it works for you, therefore should you find something is not easy to navigate, or have any (reasonable) suggestions please use the enquiry form on the Contact Us page, or email [s7enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:s7enquiries@gmail.com) and we will see what we can do.

## S7 Courses for 2015/2017

Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Teachers' Toolkit Day 1	Collyer's
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Teachers' Toolkit Day 2	Woking College
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Teachers' Toolkit Day 3	Coulsdon College
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Teachers' Toolkit Day 4	Godalming College
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Teachers' Toolkit Day 5	Strode's College
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Support Staff Leadership Programme	Gorse Hill
Pm Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Learning Facilitators: Assistive Technology	Godalming College
Am Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	New Heads of Department 1st ½ day	Woking College
Pm Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	New Heads of Department 2nd ½ day	Godalming College
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Aspiring Heads of Department Training (Group 1)	Woking College
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Aspiring Heads of Department Training (Group 2)	Collyer's
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb and Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Leadership Programme Days 1 and 2	Gorse Hill
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Leadership Programme Day 3	Gorse Hill
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Leadership Programme Day 4	Gorse Hill
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Leadership Programme Day 5	Gorse Hill
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Senior Managers' day	Gorse Hill

### Current S7 meeting groups:

- ◆ Principals
- ◆ Vice Principals
- ◆ Staff Development Managers
- ◆ Student Services Managers
- ◆ Equality and Diversity
- ◆ BTEC Nominees' Group
- ◆ Finance Directors
- ◆ Learning Support Managers
- ◆ Admissions
- ◆ Adult Education
- ◆ Attendance Officers
- ◆ Bursary Administrators
- ◆ Careers/Student Progression
- ◆ Clerks to Governors
- ◆ Counsellors
- ◆ ESOL Group
- ◆ Exam Officers
- ◆ IT Managers
- ◆ Learning Facilitators
- ◆ LRC Managers
- ◆ Marketing Group
- ◆ MIS Managers
- ◆ Oxbridge Coordinators
- ◆ Personnel/HR Group
- ◆ Receptionists
- ◆ Science Technicians
- ◆ Student Liaison Officers

Subject meetings can also be arranged on a one-off basis when required.



## Visits and Exchanges

We continue to receive much positive feedback from staff members (whether in a teaching role or support staff role) who have undertaken visits to other S7 colleges. Your senior management teams fully support and recognise the benefits of such visits taking place.

If you would like to undertake a visit to a peer department in another S7 college either visit the Visits and Exchanges page on the [S7 website](#) or contact [s7enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:s7enquiries@gmail.com).



## A message from the S7 Manager

*Strength is in numbers*, so the old saying goes, and if this is the case then S7 is growing stronger every year. Last year we reported that Coulsdon College and The College of Richard Collyer in Horsham had joined S7. Now we are delighted to say that BHASVIC (Brighton, Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College) have asked to join S7 and we have been very pleased to agree. BHASVIC is a large and outstanding college on the south coast, which has been associated with S7 for a long time, as they have been sending delegates to our Leadership Programme for many years. They have been so impressed with our training and sharing of good practice opportunities that they have decided to become full members of the consortium.

Gaining two colleges recently has been such a positive injection into S7, that we were only too happy to take on another college. We can learn so much from each other and already the meetings are more vibrant and the different procedures and ideas brought to us from BHASVIC are very beneficial and interesting to us all. We hope that they will gain from being part of the consortium and welcome them wholeheartedly.

More new training courses are being developed, amongst the most exciting of which are two courses for Pastoral Managers: *Aspiring Pastoral Managers* and *New Pastoral Managers*, designed to run alongside the *Aspiring HoDs* and *New HoDs* courses. They will be available in 2016-17. We are also working on a course for Senior Heads of Departments and there will be one off sessions for other groups such as the Finance Managers and Learning Facilitators.

Across this academic year, instead of running a full day Support Staff Conference, we will be running several different courses for Support Staff based on training needs. As always, if you wish to visit or do an exchange with a member of staff in another college, please contact us.

An exciting future is planned, and it only remains for me to say thank you so much to all those people who teach on and attend the courses that we set up. It is always such a positive experience to meet such vibrant and skilled sets of people. Our students are very lucky to have such amazing staff in their colleges.

*Anna Loveday, S7 Consortium Manager*

