



# What can S7 do for you?

Pursuing excellence through collaboration

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S7 NEWSLETTER ISSUE 8

SUMMER TERM 2016

- 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

As the 2015/16 academic year draws to a close, we can all breathe a sigh of collective relief. This has been a year quite unlike any other. With curriculum reform, an unexpected Autumn Statement and possible academy conversion thrown into the Area Review mix, there has been plenty to keep us occupied. The results of the various area reviews affecting S7 colleges will shake out in the coming months, but one positive arising from the Surrey review (which includes Collyer's) has been the opportunity to foreground the impact of S7 collaborative activity at a national level. Peter Mucklow, the Sixth Form College Commissioner, and other senior Education Funding Agency officials, were impressed by the way in which the consortium has developed and matured, by the training programmes on offer and by the emphasis on quality improvement (one of the key criteria in a successful application for academy conversion).

As reported below, we have recently welcomed Bexhill College 6th Form College as the ninth member of S7 and we look forward to working with colleagues from the South Coast (many of whom are already well known to us) on consortium matters going forwards. We are entering a period of change in other ways. There will be new Principals and/or Chief Executives in post in four of our colleges at the start of next academic year and it is reassuring that in all cases the faces are familiar. I know that the individuals concerned are fully committed to S7 as an organisation and I'm sure the consortium will go from strength to strength under their leadership. Finally, I am stepping down after an interesting two years as S7 Chair and Sally Bromley, Principal of Collyer's, will be taking over in the new term.



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

## ... And now we are 9 — S7 welcomes Bexhill College

The Consortium was joined by Bexhill Sixth Form College earlier in the academic year and we are pleased to welcome them as our ninth member.

The College has over 1900 full-time students and offers a varied and rewarding post-16 experience. There are more than 100 courses for all abilities, including over 40 A-Levels.



Their latest Ofsted report was published in November

2015 and confirmed that students continue to receive good quality education and training. They noted that students study on a 'vibrant and well-resourced single campus' where the College has successfully provided students with excellent accommodation, facilities and resources to support teaching and learning.

It also highlighted that many students travel long distances to attend the College due to its high reputation.

*Fraser Ward, PR & Communications Officer, Bexhill College*



#### 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.

## S7-Oxbridge Collaborative Project

An exciting project was launched last summer between Churchill College, Cambridge, and the S7 colleges. Cambridge delivers training to our students several times a year to prepare them for application to Oxford and Cambridge. The first session for Year 13 students was led by

Dr Jonathan Padley in September 2015 and focused on getting ready for the interview process. St Hilda's College, Oxford, joined the project in January 2016 and co-led the second training session for Year 12 students. This time, there was an introduction to Oxford and Cambridge from Dr Padley and Hannah Rolley from St Hilda's, followed by a workshop on getting involved in super-curricular activities. The third training session of the year is to be



held in June and will focus on preparing personal statements. In addition to these invaluable student sessions, Dr Nick Cutler, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor at Churchill College, has also delivered two CPD sessions for teachers which have been immensely useful for everyone involved.

*Liz Bentley-Pattison, Woking College, and Steve Tippen, Reigate College*

## Visits and Exchanges



S7 has seen a number of visits to peer departments throughout 2016 and feedback continues to be highly positive. Any member of staff in any S7 college can request a visit to a similar department in a fellow S7 college. Simply email [s7enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:s7enquiries@gmail.com) with your request and we will help to facilitate arrangements.

*"I found this a very useful and helpful exercise. I found the day very enriching and inspiring. Sharing best practice is really beneficial and free!"*  
Taken from visit feedback, Jan 2016



### Summer Term Training—Sessions for Support Staff

We are pleased to be delivering some training sessions specifically designed for our Support Staff during the summer term. We start with a morning at Coulsdon College on Tuesday, 14th June when delegates will gain a better understanding of Being a Good Team Player and Getting the most from your Professional Review. On the afternoon of Friday, 24th June the training moves to Esher College where themes to be covered are Excelling under Pressure and Mindfulness. If you are interested in attending one of these half days please notify your college Staff Development Manager.



### New Courses for 2016-17

For many years we have run courses for Aspiring Heads of Department and New Heads of Department, which have been hugely valued. These led on to the Leadership Programme and the Senior Leadership Programme, which both cater for curriculum and pastoral managers, but there has been an obvious gap in terms of Aspiring Pastoral Managers and New Pastoral Managers.

Therefore we are delighted to announce that from September 2016 these two new courses will be available. The Aspiring Pastoral Managers' courses will include 'Moving from team member to team leader' and 'Applying for a Pastoral Managers post'. The New Pastoral Managers' course will include 'Running meetings', 'Identifying and developing strategies to improve individual student performance' and 'Dealing with complaints and difficult parents'.

If you are interested in attending one of these courses during the next academic year, please speak to your Staff Development Manager.





Thank you to Fraser Ward, Bexhill College, Liz Bentley-Pattison, Woking College, and Steve Tippen, Reigate College, for their contributions to this newsletter.

## Subject Meetings

With the introduction of new specs we have seen an increase in the number of subject groups meeting throughout the year and, realising the benefit of face-to-face meetings, some groups are meeting more than once a year. The S7 team is able to help facilitate any meeting requests so simply email [s7enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:s7enquiries@gmail.com) to get the ball rolling.

## A message from the S7 Director

As Dan has already said, this has been a full and interesting year for all the S7 Colleges which has necessarily been reflected in our activities.

We are now a consortium of 9 colleges, which has brought challenges in terms of geographical distance and numbers, but also real advantages in terms of the sharing of good practice. We are delighted to welcome Bexhill College to the Consortium and they are already fully integrating themselves into the meetings and courses that we run. We also have buy-in from one or two other colleges, so we are very close to taking over the whole of the South East of England in terms of Sixth Form Colleges.

This year we have worked hard to fully support staff in the changes that they have had to deal with and we have had many requests for subject meetings to discuss the new specifications. This will undoubtedly continue into the next academic year, culminating in the Teaching and Learning Conference in June 2017, when all subjects will be meeting.

As you have read earlier in the Newsletter, we are starting two new courses for Pastoral Managers and, as always, we are demand driven in terms of other professional development, which is one of the strengths of organising your own training courses. To this end, this year we have had a Data Protection course, and next year we will be organising a Mediation course.

Sadly, we say goodbye to several S7 Principals this year, who are retiring or moving on; David Adelman - Godalming College, Chris Thomson - BHASVIC, Steve Oxlade - Reigate College, Martin Ingram - Woking College and Brett Freeman - Coulsdon College (who is in fact moving to another S7 college). We wish them all the best in their new lives and thank them for their support of, and loyalty to the S7 Consortium. We now look forward to working with those who are new in post in September, all of whom are already well known on the S7 circuit. We also welcome Sally Bromley from the College of Richard Collyer in Horsham, to the post of Chair of the Consortium.

Sharon and I have enjoyed working with many of you this year and, as ever, we are here if you need us, so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

*Anna Loveday, S7 Consortium Director*

