Education Matters Newsletter
November 2015

Education Matters is an e-newsletter for all staff and postgraduates who are involved in teaching and learning and contains items relating to the Teaching Academy and other internal and external news.

Teaching Academy News

The TA website and canvas resources
The [new intranet site](#) for the Teaching Academy contains an introductory [video](#), information on membership and the range of activities of the TA and a list of upcoming events organised by the TA, CLAD/LS and Colleges. Resources for teaching and learning are being assembled on the [TA Canvas course](#).

For more information about the TA please contact the TA Administrator Ann Evans at [teachingacademy@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:teachingacademy@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

Education in Practice
'Education in Practice' is our in-house journal that provides an accessible publication route for those looking to disseminate teaching and learning practices, ideas and developments or outcomes from educational research or projects. The journal has been designed for all University staff working in support of enhancing the student learning experience, be they academic members of staff or staff from professional or support services. Contributions are also welcomed from both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The first issue of the journal was in November 2014 and the next issue will be published next month, but we are aiming to publish two to three issues per year. If you would like to send a contribution for consideration for publication, further details are available on the Education in Practice pages on the intranet or please contact either Jon Green (j.r.green@bham.ac.uk) or Michael Grove (m.j.grove@bham.ac.uk) to discuss your ideas.

**Two symposia with the University of Nottingham**

Staff are invited to a half-day symposium on 'Opportunities and challenges in distance learning' with colleagues at the University of Nottingham to be held on Thursday 17th December, from 10am to 3pm in the Senate Chamber at the University of Nottingham. There will be an external speaker, invited contributions from staff at the two Universities and discussion, with the aim of sharing ideas and good practice on distance learning taught programmes and MOOCs. Transport and lunch will be provided. A second joint symposium will be held at UoB in May 2016 on 'Assessment & Feedback' to follow up on the assessment reviews at both Universities.

*If you would like to attend in December please email teachingacademy@contacts.bham.ac.uk*

**UoB TA Awards for Educational Enhancement and Innovation**

These awards recognise staff from across the University who provide, and contribute to, an inspirational student experience and raise the profile of such activity throughout the University. There will be eight awards across four categories: Educational Innovation, Educational Leadership, Supporting Student Learning, Research-informed teaching. Further details can be found on the [TA website](http://example.com).

*The closing date for nominations has now passed. Winners will be notified in November.*

The winner of each award will receive 1,000 pounds (or an equal share, if the award is made to a team). There will be a celebratory awards event held on 15th December 2015, to which all the winners will be invited.
Teaching Academy seminar series in CAL

These events are open to all staff, with a particular wish to include Professional Services staff and PGTAs alongside full-time academics. The second event in the series this term is:

Keeping students on track: Managing a student crisis with pro-active welfare support in CAL
Sarah Egan and Adrian Powney
Wednesday 2 December 2015, 4pm

All sessions to be held in Arts Lecture Room 1. Sessions will primarily be aimed at CAL staff but all are welcome. Refreshments available.

To register please email Ann Evans at teachingacademy@contacts.bham.ac.uk

More details of other TA events are available on the TA website

Other Internal News

Two new National Teaching Fellows at UoB
Congratulations to Dr Christine Szwed (CoSS) and Dr June Jones (MDS) who have been awarded the prestigious National Teaching Fellowship (NTF) by the HEA this year. Only 50 such awards are made across the HE sector each year. Further details can be found on the HEA website

Introducing Beacon: recognition for teaching and the support of learning
If you are interested in pursuing professional recognition and becoming a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in 2015/16 please get in touch with Sarah King in CLAD and Learning
Spaces. The University now offers an institutional route to professional recognition known as Beacon which will enable applicants to apply for Associate Fellow, Fellow or Senior Fellow through an internal scheme accredited by the HEA. Participation in the Beacon scheme will offer you access to peer support in the writing of your application and the opportunity to learn more about the requirements through an initial orientation workshop and subsequent writing workshops. There will be two opportunities to submit applications internally in 2015/16 with deadlines for submission on 4th January and 9th May 2016. If you would like to find out more about the Beacon scheme please visit our open access Canvas course in the Canvas Gallery. Please follow the link to Academic Practice. You will find an overview of the scheme here as well as dates for workshops in 2015/16.

CLAD/LS support for educational development in Colleges and Schools

CLAD/Learning Spaces works with Colleges on aspects of curriculum and educational development.

Please contact your College’s Academic Practice Advisor as follows: Marios Hadjianastasis (CAL), Sarah King (LES), Karen Skinazi (MDS), Petia Petrova (CoSS). EPS to be confirmed.

External News

HEA events

There are major conferences on Teaching & Learning in STEM (28th January 2016), Health and Social Care (24th February 2016) Arts and Humanities (3rd March 2016).

Further details of these and other events are on the HEA website.

HEFCE - learning gain

‘Learning gain’ is defined by HEFCE as ‘the improvement in knowledge, skills, work-readiness and personal development made by students during their time spent in higher education’. A total of 12 collaborative projects, including over 70 universities and colleges, will receive 4 million pounds over three years to run pilot projects that will test and evaluate measures of
learning gain in English higher education. UoB is part of a consortium of 18 Universities involved in one of these projects.

For more information go to the HEFCE website.

The future of HE?

The speech by Jo Johnson, Minister for Universities and Science, previews the green paper on HE and the proposals for the Teaching Excellence Framework that will be considered by parliament this autumn. For more information go to https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/higher-education-fulfilling-our-potential

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