



HLTA Maths and Science Briefing July 2007



Introduction

The new initiative is rapidly gathering pace. The development group has now met twice and all LAs are developing their training both for teaching assistants and their mentors in schools. It is already apparent that there will be a wide variety of training models for TAs. These models have to include flexibility so that TAs can access elements indicated by their 'training needs analysis'.

The ELC welcomed representatives from all 10 LAs involved to a first briefing on Monday 10 July. Representation included teachers, teaching assistants, work force re-modellers, science and maths advisers as well as LA personnel with a responsibility for HLTA status.

The meeting started with a lunch before a welcome and introductory talk bringing participants up to date with the latest information. There was then time for groups to discuss the issues and bring forward questions. A number of groups were LA based which helped in their own development planning. The afternoon finished with a discussion about 'next steps'. A very worthwhile afternoon. It is hope to follow this up, in some form, later in the Autumn term.

Nigel English and Penny Todman (programme leaders)

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Training

Most authorities are developing their own models ranging from provision over 10 days (from which candidates access days dependent on their needs analysis) to bespoke in-school training. It is worth emphasising again the need for well trained mentors to support the candidates in school.

Quality assurance

The whole process for TAs will be quality assured. Local authorities will make their own arrangements with Nigel and Penny, from ELC, validating the overall quality. Mentoring of candidates is included in the QA process.