

Connected

March 2015 | **ISSUE 7**

Welcome to the March 2015 edition of connect-ed.

Hello again and thank you to all of you have joined in online this month. NAU continues its record breaking year with 62% of our people now having accessed NAU online learning. That's 2,000 of you continuing your professional development and making connections across our family of schools. Read on to find out about what's new and the opportunities that we're adding this month just for you. We are also keen to recognise the significant contributions that we have received from some of you to support the development of others within the Nord Anglia Education family in this edition.

Stat-tastic

Last month:

- More than 900 members were active on NAU
- That's over 47,000 pages viewed
- More than 580 introductory courses accessed
- .. and 400 members taking part in online or face-to-face course events

The three most active schools on NAU were...

The British International School Budapest, The British School of Washington and The British International School of Charlotte. Special congratulations go to our Charlotte school for being in the top 3 schools for the last three months in a row!

Can you help your school appear here next time?
Take up the challenge and get involved on NAU today.

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Spotlight on...



"John F Kennedy said: "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future". However, Kennedy could never have forecast the exponential change of the past 20 years or so as technology has changed lives on a global scale. The demands that this has placed on educators can seem overwhelming at times – how can we prepare learners for future demands that keep shifting? One solution is for teachers to keep updating their skills and knowledge in order to keep 'current', and for schools to react swiftly to the latest research and thinking on best practice - and reflect this in their curricula.

Only a few years ago, keeping up with the pace of change in international schools would have been unimaginable, which is why the adoption of 'new' initiatives lagged a year or two behind schools in the UK, and quality CPD was reserved for the lucky few. However, great CPD is now only a mouse click

away, with NAU becoming a virtual one-stop shop, open 24/7, for those wishing to stay ahead of the game. Resources, forums, case studies and courses (such as the excellent 'World Languages High Performance') can all be accessed conveniently.

And all for free - unless you count time and effort as costs. Change demands lifelong learning since: "You can't expect to meet the challenges of today with yesterday's tools and expect to be in business tomorrow".

Jeremy Buss, Data and Assessment Manager / MFL Subject Leader at The British School, Warsaw and the most active member on NAU last month.

Researchers' corner

This month's highlighted research: How Standing Desks Can Help Students Focus in the Classroom by Holly Korbey.

Key questions covered in this research:

- Is sitting still for too long bad for our students?
- What impact do standing desks have in the classroom?
- Does movement have an effect on learning?

Read more detail on the research and the analysis by Holly Korbey on the Research community on NAU. Do you agree that a standing desk could improve student learning? Let us know in the Research community discussion - join in and have your say.



NAU where next - *an update?*

Over the past 2 months we've been gathering viewpoints from around the organisation about how you feel about NAU and where we should be going next. 81 of you chose to take part in a conversation which covered a wide range of topics. Thank you to all of you who took the time to look at the discussion and especially those of you who posted.

What did you say?

Firstly, you were happy with the current format and content of NAU

What could we improve?

Here are a selection of the ideas you put forward:

- Strengthen the links between online content and school based/personal study
- Improve the forum search
- Make better use of social media to add photos and ideas quickly
- Make it easier/quicker to log in
- Add folders to resources areas
- Add progress bars to pages
- Add more case studies and research projects
- Could we have some podcast content?

What have we done already?

We've added progress bars to the site and folders can be put in any resource area by a community manager. We are actively looking at how we make more of your suggestions a reality.

To podcast *or not to* podcast?

One of the ideas from the Where next? discussion was to add podcasts from Nord Anglia Education staff on a range of topics, for example:

- about your location (for new starters by those of you who already live there)
- classroom strategies for you to try out
- teaching subject hot topics
- middle leaders (about your role and what you do)
- CPD quick wins (short podcasts about strategies, ideas or concepts)

So here's our challenge for you...would anyone like to start the ball rolling on any of these topics and make a podcast or podcasts? Once we hear from contributors we'll set up the areas in the communities section and you can add the content yourself for others to access. If you're interested please contact Joanna Lay (joanna.lay@nordanglia.com).

Global orchestra



You may have already heard about our exciting global orchestra project.

"We are delighted to announce that we are bringing together our finest young musicians and singers in our first ever Global Orchestra performing in New York this summer! We are inviting vocalists and instrumentalists to showcase their talents and audition for our ensemble. Our Global Orchestra will join together in New York this June for an exclusive week long residential programme culminating in a public performance to celebrate their musical accomplishments. Students will participate in inspiring workshops guided by experts, watch performances by elite artists and be immersed in the city's arts culture to nurture their talent. Students will also develop their creativity, confidence and collaboration skills as they work with and learn from each other.

Auditions will take place in our 31 schools around the world in March. The top performers from each school will be invited to share a recorded audition with a global judging panel who will select three young musicians and singers from each school to join our 93 student international ensemble. This exciting opportunity is being funded by Nord Anglia Education as part of our commitment to helping students develop the skills and talents to achieve their ambitions.

If you're interested in finding out more, contact me on eluned.mansell@nordanglia.com or your school's music department."

Eluned Mansell, Project Manager, Education Team

There will be information and conversation about the Global Orchestra in the Music community on NAU and updates in the next editions of this newsletter.

OTOS recruitment event

In January we held our second annual Outstanding Teachers for Outstanding Schools (OTOS) recruitment event. The leadership teams from around our regions and schools came to London to recruit the very best teachers from a very strong field of candidates. In addition to their face-to-face interview each candidate attended a range of presentations to find out about our organisation, what it's like to teach in a Nord Anglia Education school and live in the particular region they chose, Global Classroom and Nord Anglia University:

- Over 600 face to face and online interviews were held for 282 vacant posts
- 156 offers have been made to date

The feedback from candidates was extremely positive. They were pleased to have been given the opportunity to meet the Principal or Head of School face to face and agreed that the content of the presentations inspired them to work in one of our schools. The best of those that weren't chosen have been placed into talent pools to ensure that roles will be found for them in alternative schools.

Adrian Rowley, Recruitment Manager, Human Resources

Webinars this month

We have a fantastic programme of webinars offering high quality subject specific learning opportunities led by expert teachers from across our family of schools. Here's this month's offering:

World Languages	3 March	Preparing Students for the iGCSE foreign language exams
CPD leads	5 March	Using action research to drive improvement
Maths	5 March	The flipped classroom
PE	5-11 March	Athletes USA presentations
Primary writing*	11 March	How to promote Primary writing skills
Geography	11 March	Fieldwork for data collection in the IGCSE and IBDP
Primary	17 March	Effective Learning Objectives and Success Criteria
Science	24 March	How do I HPL my department?
World Languages	25 March	KS3 Languages, paving the way for uptake at KS4 and beyond

*If you are interested in the Primary writing seminar with Oxford University Press author James Clements in March please sign up on the Seminar series pages of NAU. Places are limited and the event is already proving popular, so book now to avoid disappointment.

Details of how to join the webinars can be found on NAU on the webinars page and in the related subject community areas. All our webinars are recorded and archived online so that you can watch them again and again - or, just at another time if you can't make the live event.

Case studies on NAU

Our new case studies section is still proving very popular and we have a brand new case study to highlight for you this month:

Staff at the Regents International School Pattaya are currently trialling a Trios approach to professional development.

Teacher Talk - how signs/actions used alongside teacher talk aids children's concentration, focus and understanding.

Jo Brown, Hannah Martin, Andrea Beattie

Pupil Talk – how a child's oral ability impacts on their written work, special focus on EAL students.

Sara Berenguer, Caroline Draper, Emma Dunn

Using Numicon to enhance children's mathematical understanding.

Jenny Hernandez-Stalder, Louise Nealon, Alison Lyford

Currently all Trios are still in the cycle of planning, observing, reviewing lessons and the impact of their interventions and will complete soon. Look out for an update when they share their findings on NAU.

To read more case studies go to the case study section on NAU. Or have you been inspired to tell everyone what you've been doing? Want to add your own case study? Then contact Joanna Lay (joanna.lay@nordanglia.com).

Communities - collaborate and share

Communities are your opportunity to get to know colleagues from across the Nord Anglia Education family and network. They are **your** areas to talk about the topics, issues and events that are relevant to you - there are over 50 to choose from...so there must be one that's right for you!

Since our last newsletter we have two new community managers:

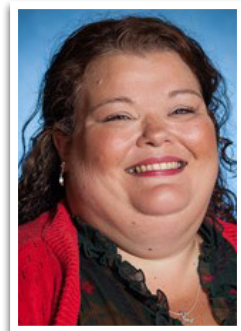


Emma Wakelin
for AFL



Michelle Collier
for Performing Arts

And don't forget that our new Teaching Fellows will also be available in their subject communities:



Becky Kirkby
for Primary



Tristian Cook
for PE

They will all be there to promote sharing of good practice and engagement across our schools, so why not go online to say hello and get involved today? If you want to go a step further and lead a community area please contact Joanna Lay (joanna.lay@nordanglia.com).

This month's highlighted community is the Mandarin Teaching community managed by Christian Bishop.



"Whilst we are all looking at maximising the 'power of 31', we in the China region have been looking at how we can make the most of the power of 6! We have pooled together the Mandarin teachers from all 6 China region schools to share a common curriculum and build a resource bank to support it. This means that we all have a high quality curriculum and resources that stem from a huge group of talented professionals, rather than individual schools. So far activity on the area has been frantic with many teachers uploading resources to share with their peers. This is fantastic to see and can only help Mandarin provision across our schools go from strength to strength!"

Why not take a look at what they've been doing and see if you can take some ideas for your own teaching practice.

Study courses

This term we have been running 6 week study courses in - Geography, Maths, Science and World Languages. We asked the participants what they would say to anyone thinking about signing up for the next set of courses - here's what some of them said:

Great opportunity to discuss [...] ideas and hear what other colleagues have to say and how they do things in their schools.

It is great to see that the problems we have as teachers are shared with the teaching community around the world.

The courses are well-structured, manageable, useful and concise.

It is worth it. It is not too time consuming therefore you can easily manage the course work and other life and work activities.

Want to join in? Go online to reserve your place on the cohorts which start later in April and May.

New opportunity: last month we also promised you details of 2 new study courses and here they are.

Establishing Effective Teaching and Learning in the Primary School - a 6 week online course hosted by Becky Kirkby on NAU. Learn about key techniques, frameworks and structures to improve teaching and learning in a Primary context.

Developing a High Performance Sports Academy in Secondary Schools - a 6 week online course hosted by Tristian Cook on NAU. Learn how to adapt your teaching through key techniques and structures to develop a high performance sports academy.

Sign up for both of these new courses on NAU today whilst places are still available - go to the Online Courses section and the Study Course page.

Leadership programmes



Judith Marriott is currently taking part in cohort 3 of the Middle Leadership Programme and has shared her experiences so far:

"As a participant of the 2014/15 European cohort of the Middle Leadership Programme I have recently been using NAU to access and submit monthly tasks. Task 2 came as a bit of a shock as we were expected to post our thoughts and opinions onto a discussion forum - for everyone else to read! Of course I did have ideas and opinions regarding the task. However, it definitely took me out of my comfort zone to share those ideas in written form, without having the option of an alias! It must be just as nerve racking for some of our students, too. After reading some of the ideas that other (braver) candidates posted, I gained confidence and submitted my own posts, realising there was not a right or wrong answer. It ended up being an amicable discussion, and although I think our leaders would have liked us to rip apart each other's ideas a little, I think it was nevertheless a brave step for us all to make!"

Judith Marriott, The British International School Bratislava

Middle and Senior Leadership Programme participants: don't forget March activity is focused on leadership capabilities."

Teaching Fellows



"It's hard to believe I'm already reflecting on my first six months in post as Teaching Fellow for World Languages! For this issue of Connect-Ed I've chosen to write about the goals I identified when I first started in post, and share a little bit about how we'll continue to work towards those goals in the coming months.

Having been a language teacher for 11 years now, I'm very familiar with the compelling need amongst linguists to talk, share, discuss and debate at every opportunity! Linguists are, unsurprisingly, a very communicative bunch by nature, and when I first took on the role of Teaching Fellow I set myself the goal to unite the World Languages community in NAE and get us all talking together. Whether on the forums, in the webinars, by email or even in person, I've seen some great interaction already this year and I plan to continue building on those foundations by encouraging linguists to join in with the community whenever they can.

Leading webinars was something completely new to me, and I would dare to say that we in China face some 'unique' technological challenges at times – but overcoming all of that to be able to talk and share live with international languages colleagues has given me a real buzz of achievement. Our webinars have been attended by a total of 37 World Languages, EAL and other interested teachers across the group, with 14 of them returning for two or more webinars.

We've covered areas such as internationalism, the IB diploma, and primary languages, with more topics coming up in the next few months to include some IGCSE exam discussion and a chat about how to improve uptake from Year 9 onwards. These online sessions in our community are always very lively, with participants either speaking on their microphones or furiously typing ideas into the chat box!

The next few months will see me concluding the first Study Course, continuing the monthly webinar series and building up the World Languages Resource Bank alongside the forum discussions. Excitingly, the seeds of a few inter-school collaborations have been sown in the forums, so I'm really looking forward to seeing what our World Languages teams manage to achieve together for their students between now and the summer.

It's busy, the life of a Teaching Fellow – but it's really rewarding! Keep in touch with me at s-ford@bisspudong.com, as the best thing about this role is definitely hearing from colleagues like you all over the world.

Sarah Ford, Teaching Fellow for World Languages

Sharing professional learning from around NAE



An event was held in Dubai last month for the school professional development leads. 24 members of our school staff joined us for a packed 2 days focussed on making the most of professional learning within their settings. Sessions were led by Patrick Horne on changing the mindset and culture, Mark Whitfield on strategies to support professional learning in your school, myself on strategic planning for professional learning and Inderjit Dehal on analysing the impact. Case studies based on developing professional learning communities were shared by Paul Walton from The British International School Budapest and Christian Bishop from the Nord Anglia International School Hong Kong. There were many takeaways from the event, with one delegate commenting that it had 'given her wings' to approach professional learning within her school.

If you are interested in the presentations from this event then access the professional development leads community on NAU.

Nicola Morris, Assistant Director for NAU and Leadership Programmes, Education Team

Curriculum Corner - The “Master” (or mistress!) of your domain...



How many of you out there are currently studying for a Masters?

Last summer, 25% of teachers at Nord Anglia Education had a masters qualification. That's a lot of teachers with the experience of research on which to base their teaching – to help them improve and to ensure they are aware of the leading edge in educational thinking. But for those that don't have a masters (yet?) there is the opportunity of Nord Anglia University. Nord Anglia University recently launched a case study area for teachers to share the work they are doing with colleagues across the family. This gave the opportunity for Therese Andrews, from the British International School of Boston, who is currently studying for her masters at Harvard, to share her first term essay on whether the behaviours being developed in Boston were having any positive effect on students' academic progress and engagement.

This is only one of many case studies that are starting to appear on Nord Anglia University – which supplement an already rich research library with personal reflections from real teachers in our schools. The most recent of these, launched last month, was from Michelle Gill, Emma Wakelin and Adam Webb from year 3 in Puxi. The focus of this case study was “developing HPL in the year 3 classroom” – a great read!

It would be great to see other case studies appear on these pages. Are you a teacher with a masters who would be interested in sharing your dissertation or other relevant assignments? Or maybe you are currently a masters student? If so, why not tell us what you are doing and share your most recent work.

Of course, sharing case studies is not the only benefit of accessing Nord Anglia University. We are currently working with our university partner, King's College London, to accredit our leadership programmes....so if you are on the Middle, Senior or Executive Programme you may soon find that the course is worth more than a certificate of completion and actually counts credit towards a masters qualification.

We are also exploring the possibility of developing a bespoke masters programme in International Education with King's College London. This is only at the very early stages, but we would be interested to hear from you if this is something that you would want to do, at a distance (supported by us of course!) Or what if you are thinking of doing a masters programme next year somewhere else? Or were coming to the end of the first year of your part time masters programme this year?

Of course, the evidence of the impact of a masters degree on eventual student outcomes is yet to be confirmed. Some evidence is very positive, whilst other evidence is far less so. However, as Dan Goldhaber writes in *The Mystery of Good Teaching*, “the lack of clear evidence on the effectiveness of teacher certification suggests we should continue experiments.” Perhaps this is an opportunity for Nord Anglia Education teachers to demonstrate the impact of these degrees and answer this question once and for all?

Mark Orrow-Whiting, Director of Curriculum and Student Performance

Access

Nord Anglia University is the home of professional learning in Nord Anglia Education. It is available to all of our people, wherever you are based.

If you work in a school:

Log in to your school Moodle account and click the Nord Anglia University button. Not sure how to do this or you don't have an account? Please contact your school Moodle champion who can help you to get online.

If you work in another location:

Visit www.naeuniversity.com and enter your Nord Anglia University account details. If you don't have an account, contact Joanna Lay (joanna.lay@nordanglia.com).