

Chalton Lower School is a member of HAST. We thought you might like to know a little bit about the work they do for the schools and on our behalf.



HAST committing funds to bring benefits to schools in our pyramid

HAST was created in 2008 to facilitate collaboration and partnership across the 13 schools in the Harlington Upper School pyramid. Its objective is *to provide an exciting and innovative collaborative approach to teaching, learning and governance to ensure every child in the HAST family receives an excellent and well-rounded education from age 3 to 19*. 10 of the 13 schools in the pyramid have since become members of the Trust, with the others considering membership.

In April 2012 HAST was commissioned by Central Bedfordshire Council to run the Hearing Impaired Service on behalf of the Council. Three HAST schools have special provision for Hearing Impaired pupils. Since then, HAST has been commissioned to run the CBC Medical Needs and Visually Impaired services. HAST believes it has brought significant improvement to these services.

Funds are available from HAST to provide additional support in other areas. The first of these was the literacy text books project in September 2014, with a number of schools reporting significant improvements.

HAST hosted a successful conference in June, attended by over 60 senior staff and governor representatives from all the schools in the pyramid. The attendees were asked to consider what HAST could do which would benefit the pyramid most. The Board reviewed all the ideas generated and a number of priorities were identified.

Projects are now underway to address these priorities. In particular:

- £25,000 provided by HAST to improve teacher recruitment and retention across the pyramid, which might include developmental TLR posts or training bursaries;
- £25,000 provided by HAST to fund additional support from specialists such as an Educational Psychologist, Family Support Worker or counselling services, plus £12,000 to help fund a Speech & Language Therapist;
- £2,000 provided to fund a review of the current assessment framework across all the HAST schools, with a view to developing a common assessment framework throughout the pyramid;
- £3,000 provided to fund a music festival across all schools.

A number of other priorities are also being considered, such as improved IT services, financial support for school trips, joint policies, and governors attending other governing body meetings to share best practice and better understand the issues facing other schools.

It should be noted that these projects would only be made available to those schools that are already members of HAST, or whose governing body has agreed to start the process to become members.

There were some excellent ideas generated at the conference, and HAST is pleased to report that progress is being made to implement a number of these, thus going a long way towards meeting HAST's objectives as outlined above.