

Connected

October 2015 | Issue 13

Welcome to the October 2015 edition of Connected

We're delighted to bring you our October newsletter. We've packed this edition with articles to help you find out more about the professional learning, good practice and collaboration opportunities that are available for you at Nord Anglia Education.

Read on to find out more about what's new, what's noteworthy and more about the new activities we've been busy working on this month. We've also highlighted the many significant contributions that we have received from around the Nord Anglia Education family, all of which will enable you to **Be Ambitious** with your own learning this academic year.

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Stat-tastic

Now that all schools have started the term, activity was up on NAU:

At least 517 people were active on NAU...

...with 29703 pages viewed...

...leaving 75 comments in community discussions...

...and over 100 of you taking part in online or face-to-face course events.

This shows the real commitment to continuing professional development across the Nord Anglia Education family.

The three most active schools on NAU were...Nord Anglia International School Shanghai, Pudong, Nord Anglia International School Dubai and Nord Anglia International School Hong Kong.

We'd also like to acknowledge our most active participant last month who was Nigel Sousa from Nord Anglia International School Hong Kong.





Nicola Howard, Science Teacher and Head of Professional Development, Nord Anglia International School Shanghai Pudong

Spotlight on the Nord Anglia International School Pudong

At NAIS Pudong with regards to professional development we have started the new academic year with a real focus on the unique opportunities that NAU has to offer.

Dedicated time has been used to share with all staff the wide variety of resources available. A quick-start guide was designed and disseminated to ensure that all staff could very quickly and efficiently navigate the site to find aspects that are particularly pertinent to their professional development. We have a very open and collaborative approach to professional learning in Pudong and thus staff are enthusiastic about the array of development opportunities at their fingertips through NAU. By using it as a vehicle to inspire, share and utilise expertise, we will embed NAU into our team and open project approach as we head into Term 2 later this year.

NAU induction event – an update

This month we held two induction sessions to introduce new staff (and a few old friends) to what's on offer on NAU. This included an overview of the new online courses as well as our existing online course offers, the best practice areas, communities and opportunities for collaboration and personal development.

If you weren't able to attend we have recorded these sessions and they can be found on NAU on the [webinars page](#).

Do you know somebody within your workplace who would benefit from a pat on the back for the commitment that they make?

Nominate today



Nicola Morris, Assistant Director for Leadership Programmes and Nord Anglia University, Education Department

Professional Development Awards

We are back at that time of year when we gain momentum towards the regional conferences and celebration of our staff achievements through the Professional Development Awards which are presented by Andrew Fitzmaurice at the regional conferences.

These awards will showcase our most committed professionals and their outstanding work across the organisation.

We invite all our leaders to nominate staff who consistently demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism in the following categories:

- Classroom Practitioner of the Year – For class based practitioners who demonstrate outstanding application within their school, are rated consistently outstanding within their performance management, are highly respected by staff, students and parents and go above and beyond in their role.
- The 'Be Ambitious' Teacher Award – For teachers who best exemplify the 'Be Ambitious' philosophy, demonstrating that there is no limit to what each student can achieve.
- School Support Practitioner of the Year – For a member of support staff working within school who demonstrates commitment and resourcefulness in their role which significantly impacts on the outcomes of students.
- Outstanding Leader of the Year – At any level, in any part of the company, for people showing effective leadership of other professionals and innovation in implementing the 'core 7' into their team.
- Innovation in Professional Development – For individuals who have made significant contribution to Professional Development online and face to face within a network of practitioners

Applications now open on NAU under the regional conferences section. Applications close on 25th October 2015. [Use the online nomination form on NAU.](#)

Webinars this term

We've added details for more webinars throughout this term to our online timetable, including for this month:

Learning Technologies	6th October	What to teach and when to teach it
Maths	14th October	Deeper learning in Mathematics
Professional Development Leads	28th October	What is good professional learning?

Our webinars are open to all staff regardless of your role or teaching subject.

Details of how to join webinars and the full webinar schedule 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 you can watch them again and again - or just at another time if you can't make the live event.

Get involved – webinar leaders for NAU

We know that there is a wealth of knowledge and skills around the organisation and we're looking for colleagues who would like to lead a webinar session online, on a topic of their choice, for the rest of the organisation. Are you interested? Got a skill that you want to share? Email Joanna Lay for details (joanna.lay@nordanglia.com).

Applications will be open until 30th October 2015



Nicola Morris,
Assistant Director for Leadership Programmes and Nord Anglia University, Education Department

Leadership Programmes

The submission deadline for Professional Enquiries for the 2014/15 MLP and SLP cohort has now passed and outcomes from the programmes will be shared with delegates and line managers in early November.

We had a very successful cohort of leaders who moved through the programme in 2014/15; please see the leadership programme celebration section attached to this newsletter to celebrate their achievements.

The leadership programme application window is open for 2015/16 and we are thrilled to announce that we are now running a regional middle leaders programme, which means that more of you will be able to access the programme this year. There will be a total of 125 places on this programme from across our schools and we look forward to welcoming so many of you to invest in your leadership through the middle leadership programme. The application process includes criteria for selection, an application form which details your role, key leadership responsibility and how you are 'ambitious' in your own development.

Are you a middle or senior leader looking for a challenge where you can meet like-minded individuals and continue your learning journey? Apply on NAU today.

Applications will be open until 30th October 2015, spaces are limited and applications must be supported by your Principal or Line Manager. [Apply online on the Leadership Programmes page.](#)

Ewen McLeish
St Andrews International
School Bangkok

“The community has also been a great place to share the success of the local and global community links our schools have developed...”

Communities – collaborate and share

NAU 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 55 to choose from...so there must be one that's right for you!

We have recently appointed five new community managers:



Steve Rand
Boarding



Serena Yeung
Building Design



Renchan Angmo
Librarians



Kieren Reynolds
Computer Science



Joe Heath
Psychology

They will all be online 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 [Global Citizenship Community](#).

There is a lot of talk about creating Global Citizens in International Education, but what does it mean to be a Global Citizen? Is it someone who simply considers all countries as potential homes, workplaces, or holiday destinations? Or is it something more?

We've been discussing this and much else in recent months. There has been a lot of talk about the 'ins and outs' of teaching parts of the IGCSE Global Citizenship curriculum that prove to be controversial in certain parts of the world. The community has also been a great place to share the success of the local and global community links our schools have developed in Bangkok, Budapest, and Singapore. Work has begun uploading a range of resources to support the teaching of all ages. Thanks to Carla in Singapore for sharing a range of IGCSE resources and to everyone who has posted so far.

This community is not just for those specifically teaching Global Citizenship as it can be part of everything we teach, in all parts of the school. How would you fit the global dimension into your mathematics, science or language lesson for example? Why not visit our community to find out more? It would be great to hear how Global Citizenship is tackled in Nord Anglia schools around the world.

We'd also like to highlight an example of fantastic collaboration between our schools in the Music community, which has 10 schools signed up for the '[One Day One Choir](#)' event. Well done Rachel and all the music teachers who have got involved!



Ewen McLeish,
Community Manager for Global Citizenship,
Year 5 Teacher and Learning & Life Coordinator at
St Andrews International School Bangkok

Communities – collaborate and share



Announcing the new Expeditions community

We are pleased to announce the launch of the new [Expedition Community Group](#) on Nord Anglia University; we hope that this new area will increase dialogue across our schools regarding Outdoor Education and Expeditions whether coordinated by schools or centrally.

The Community Group will offer areas for discussion and a facility for sharing resources, whether operational or academic. We will also begin to use the area as the go to platform for teachers to access pre-trip information and forms, to submit completed expedition documentation, and to share their experiences from previous expeditions and how these have translated to the classroom environment.

We will continue developing this page over the next year, eventually introducing e-learning modules and a range of facilities that support the development of Outdoor Education and Expeditionary Learning across our family of schools. We look forward to seeing you online soon.



David Wall,
Assistant Director, Head of Expeditions,
Education Department



Case studies on NAU

The case studies section is proving very popular and this month we are highlighting a new case study for you about the importance of really thinking through how you use your outdoor space.

Diane Field
Head of Phase for Early Years
Foundation Stage and Key
Stage 1

“We want our youngest children to be challenged and excited, to be scared, to be brave.”

St Andrews – Our Outdoor Spaces

Visitors to St Andrews often comment that the school is a surprising ‘green oasis’ just hidden off a busy soi in Bangkok. Even first time visitors say there is something special about the campus that is hard to define. With a colonial style and landscaping it is very different to the harsh, corporate architecture of some other schools.

With our ever increasing popularity we strive to maintain this calm balance whilst ensuring that we make the best possible use of the outside space available. The impact of that first impression is vital for a school in such a competitive market and any enhancement needs to blend with the very natural feel of the environment rather than jar and challenge it.

St Andrews prides itself on being a ‘community school’ and at the end of the day, when most other schools have emptied and closed their gates, we are still a hive of activity. Many parents collect their children but instead of rushing home will meet together, sharing snacks and watching their children play. Areas that enhance this experience for them will only increase our already strong sense of community.

Our Specific Learning Spaces

Both indoor and outdoor learning spaces should provide children with challenge, opportunities to lead their own learning and practice new skills, link ideas and develop independence and self-regulation skills. They should support the children in the development of their ‘whole self’.

We want our youngest children to be challenged and excited, to be scared, to be brave. To get dirty and wet and experience the kind of activities that ‘condo living’ does not facilitate. We want to work with parents on things they can do to enhance the experiences that they provide for their children.

As largely EAL Learners we aim to maximise the opportunity for students in all areas of the school to engage with each other to develop their communication skills, and create settings that will best support this aim.

Our Challenge

We became aware that a scheduled new building project would provide us with some fantastic opportunities in the way of improved facilities, but also bring with it some challenges as the number of students in every area of school continues to grow. We had to maximise our use of space, make sure the learning environment still carried its ‘small school feel’ and work on further developing our relationships with families to ensure a smooth transition for our youngest children from a home to a busy school environment.

With this in mind we invited Elizabeth Jarman, an internationally recognised consultant who specialises in developing learning spaces that stimulate and support language development through her ‘Communication Friendly Spaces Approach’. Elizabeth provided us with some bespoke INSET for the whole of our Foundation Stage and Primary year groups, worked with our Estates Team, reviewed our architect’s plans with us and made suggestions from classroom management to campus layout.

We are still very much a ‘work in progress’ as we await the opening of our new building and look forward to developing new playground spaces, but we are delighted to welcome Elizabeth back to school in mid-November.

She plans to run some parent workshops, work with our teams as we settle into our new space and with our Foundation Stage Team in particular to develop enabling environments that welcome children, minimise separation anxiety and promote and support language development.



Diane Field,
Head of Phase for Early Years Foundation
Stage and Key Stage 1, St Andrews
International School Bangkok

Case studies on NAU

St Andrews – Our Outdoor Spaces cont.

Mel Curtis, Principal

“We come into this profession to make a difference for children – to make a deep difference we have to organise learning differently.”



Mel Curtis

Principal, British international School Chicago, Lincoln Park

Our Invitation

We would love to welcome colleagues from other Nord Anglia Education schools to join us on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th November to participate in some workshops but also share some of the excellent practice that happens in their schools.

The cost of the Workshop and Seminars will be 3,500 baht (just over 60 GBP), and that is to cover the cost of food and transport to and from the recommended hotel. We will of course organise optional socials. For those of you who don't know Bangkok and St Andrews, our school is less than a kilometre from the main Sukhumvit Road that leads into the city but is itself in a quiet suburb. The recommended hotel is 1km away from school, next to a Skytrain station. The Skytrain will have you at all the tourist spots within 10 minutes but there is enough to do in the local area should you prefer to stay out of the Centre. Once people have registered their interest with me I will send out more details of the suggested programme and other practical information.

Learning without limits within a thinking School

What a way to start the new school year – we were fortunate to have Dame Alison Peacock with us over 2 days as part of our whole school professional development and orientation week in August.

Alison is the Executive Headteacher of The Wroxham Transformative Learning Alliance and Headteacher of the Wroxham School in Hertfordshire where she has successfully developed the concept of learning without limitless potential.

We come into this profession to make a difference for children – to make a deep difference we have to organise learning differently.

A culture and approach which is based on trust, the right conditions and support, where colleagues are stimulated to do their own thinking. A culture where staff take pride in their own and each other's capacity to learn, and to treat this as integral to their professional identity.

Over the 2 days we worked together on

- Circle group meetings
- Learning review meetings
- Enlivening learning
- Open-ended curriculum experiences and making connections
- Engaging children in assessing their own learning
- Challenges and not levels
- The importance of empathy
- Putting learning first
- How fixed ability thinking can limit learning

Over the next 12 months we will develop these concepts further as part of the whole school learning journey and welcome Dame Alison back to our school in the summer term to celebrate our successes.

We've also made a [case study](#) of this project and will update you later on in the year on how it goes.

Online certificates on NAU

We've made a change on NAU and now you can access your online course certificates directly from NAU. Once you've accessed your certificates you'll also see a list of all your certificates on the home page. So no need to wait anymore; you can go online and retrieve your certificates straight away!



Teaching Fellows

We're busy working with our Teaching Fellows to offer you new online activities and live events using expertise from within Nord Anglia Education. [You can find out more about our fellows on NAU.](#)



Therese Andrews,

Teaching Fellow for Geography and Head of Middle School at the British International School of Boston (therese.andrews@bisboston.org)

Therese Andrews,
Teaching Fellow

“One of the roles of a Teaching Fellow is to build a community of practitioners across our family of schools who contribute to the forum discussions, participate in webinars and learn together through online courses.”

A spotlight on Therese Andrews our Geography Teaching Fellow

It has been a great start to the year here in Boston and it's been a pleasure to collaborate with colleagues across the company as we plan for the year ahead. This term, as well as continuing as the Geography Teaching Fellow, I will also be working with three new Teaching Fellows as they find their feet in the role. There are now eight Teaching Fellows in total, making it an exciting team to be a part of.

Geographically speaking, it has been a great few weeks as new content is developed for the Global Campus and the potential for new partnerships emerge. I have been liaising with both the National Geographic Society and Project Zero, which is based at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and have set up meetings to discuss possible links for the future. If you have any ideas for how we could collaborate with these organisations, please contribute them to the Geography forum on NAU.

It has been a pleasure to get to know the three new Teaching Fellows as they undertake their new positions. One of the roles of a Teaching Fellow is to build a community of practitioners across our family of schools who contribute to the forum discussions, participate in webinars and learn together through online courses. Therefore, it would be great to see as many teachers as possible supporting both the existing and new fellows in their endeavors so that everyone can benefit from the tremendous strength that we have in the company. Sign up to the forum discussions and attend webinars – you will definitely have something to contribute and will likely learn something new too!

Teaching Fellows



Emma Pickering

Our new Fellows

We're delighted to introduce you to the three new Teaching Fellows who we will be working with this year. Look out for more information in the coming months on the online courses and events they'll be taking part in.

- **Emma Pickering – Teaching Fellow for Early Years**

Emma Pickering has just completed the NAU Middle Leader Programme this year. Her primary responsibility is Leader for Learning in the Early Years at **The British International School Budapest**. Her expertise is within the principles and practices of Reggio Emilia and her recent professional enquiry focused on: How does documentation support the learning process? Each week she will work with the NAU Early Years Community Manager Jo Johnson to update the forum with thought provoking articles, photographs and discussions focusing on Early Years education. She is also looking forward to developing webinars and a study course to support Early Years Educators in sharing excellent practice across the Nord Anglia group of schools.

- **Dan Franklin – Teaching Fellow for Learning Technologies**

This school year, in addition to the Teaching Fellow role, Daniel Franklin has taken on the role of Primary Leader of Learning Technology at **The British International School of Houston**. With a background of coordinating ICT at his previous school in the UK, he is excited to be continuing this both in Houston and further afield. He is most interested in ensuring that learning technologies are used as an effective tool to enhance a student's learning experience both in and out of the classroom. With there being such a wide range of information within the subject area, he would be interested in hearing from you with any questions or suggestions of areas that NAE staff would like support with. Also, having a contact in each school would help to widen dialogue about Learning Technologies across our NAE family.



Dan Franklin

- **Emma Noonan – Teaching fellow for Teaching and Learning in the Primary Phase**

Emma Noonan is currently working at **NAS Dubai, Middle East**. This school is still in its infancy, having opened in August 2014. Emma has taken on the Fellowship role in addition to responsibility for whole school Professional Development and class teaching. With a strong background in Early Years and Key Stage 1 (age 5-7), Emma is keen to look at some of the issues facing teachers with the transition from Early Years into Year 1. She is also aiming to look closely at how teachers and schools are reviewing and changing assessment procedures as the use of traditional 'levels' are phased out. She would like to encourage KS1 teachers to express interest if they would like to discuss either of the above focuses or any additional topics useful to improve practice and gain support from colleagues.



Emma Noonan

A spotlight on professional learning pathways



Pathway for a Classroom teacher



Pathway for a middle leader



Pathway for a senior leader



Pathway for non teaching staff

In the last edition we introduced you to our new online self study courses. Over the next few issues we'll be taking an in depth look into the new content so that you can decide if they are right for you.

Our Professional Development Pathways have been designed to give you a structure for an extended learning project. We've created a pathway for a classroom teacher, a middle leader, a senior leader and a non-teaching member of staff.

Each one is packed with ideas and suggestions including:

- online learning activities
- ways to interact and collaborate with your colleagues
- ideas to share (and see) best practice in action
- ways to reflect on your current practice
- thinking points and key questions to give you ideas to challenge yourself

Overall they are an excellent way to be ambitious with your professional development and reach your career goals.

Go online to NAU today and look at the [self-study courses](#) area to find the pathway that's right for you.

There are also places available on our facilitated study courses this term. Log on to the [study courses pages](#) to see what's on offer.

Seminar Series



Steve Higgins

September 2015 saw the return of the popular seminar series events. The first of these on 'Education Research and how to implement it in your school' was run on 21st September and led by Professor Steve Higgins.

Steve is currently a Professor of Education at Durham University. He has a particular interest in researching how thinking and learning skills develop in the classroom as well as ways to assess quality of teaching. Amongst many research projects he has worked on he is also one of the authors of the Sutton Trust/EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit.

The seminar was packed with practical hints on how to choose the right educational research which will apply to your school context and which will have the greatest impact on teaching and learning outcomes.

Both sessions were recorded and can be found in here on our [Seminar Series page](#) along with Steve's full biography.

The next event will be held on **November 25th** when James Clements will be delivering a live session on '**writing for 7s to 11s**' which will include ideas for getting your students writing and techniques for use with EAL students.



James Clements

James works as an independent English adviser, supporting schools and local authorities across the country to develop the teaching of reading, writing and drama. He is the creative director of Shakespeare and More, a not-for-profit organisation that supports the teaching of English in primary schools. He is also the director of education at an academy trust in London.

You can [book your place on NAU today](#) for this (and future) events.

Spotlight on research into Assessment for Learning by Dr Maria Britton



Dr Maria Britton,

Learning Leader for KS1 and KS2 Topic,
Year 1 Teacher, The British School Warsaw

I recently completed a research project at the University of Reading, UK which may be of interest to colleagues. The study looked at how Assessment for Learning (AfL) is used with KS2 (age 7-11) children who are not proficient in English. The participants included 148 children and 8 teachers. The findings indicate that children can understand feedback provided through AfL and that younger and less proficient children benefit from pictorial representations and rely more on teacher and peer feedback. However, as they mature children can become more accurate in self-evaluating. Formative feedback impacted on children's learning in the following ways:

- **Feeling of success:** students become more aware of their success and develop positive affective dispositions (this includes a self-concept as learners, motivation and positive attitude towards learning)
- **Interactions:** in lessons where AfL is used systematically students tend to participate in a larger number of collaborative learner-learner and teacher-learner interactions and lessons are often less teacher-fronted and more learner-oriented
- **Facilitating learning:** the interactions recorded during the use of AfL provided evidence that using AfL techniques could help create conditions which focus children's and teachers' efforts on moving learning forward. This is done by enabling interactions in two types of conversational modes which have been shown by other research to support learning.

Please share your experience of using AfL and providing feedback on the [Research Community Forum](#).

Coming soon – Your Learning Portfolio

We're busy working on a new section for NAU... a learning portfolio where you can record your professional development achievements and experiences.

Look out for more details in upcoming editions.

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).