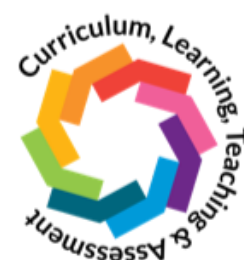


DECEMBER 2022

THE WEST PARTNERSHIP

The West Partnership Newsletter



Scan or [click here](#)
for main website



OUR ETHOS

The West Partnership aims to embed the values of equity, excellence and empowerment in everything we do. Focusing on building a culture of working collaboratively across the eight partners, we strive to continually improve learning experiences and increase attainment for every learner across the region. We believe it is by empowering staff and shifting the ownership of change that we can drive our vision forward. Working together we can overcome barriers to lack of engagement in learning and raise achievement and attainment for all. Underpinning all of our work is a commitment to supporting recovery across the system.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORKSTREAM LEAD OFFICERS



**Leadership,
Empowerment
& Improvement**

Lead officer - Alison Drever

Email- alison.drever@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

The first part of this session has seen some big changes in the work of this workstream. One of the most exciting has seen around 140 teachers who are taking part in Improving Our Classrooms this year come together across the eight West Partnership local authorities to talk and think about Learning and Teaching, most recently Metacognition and Creativity. It will be great to see what everyone comes up with for their research question. This is driven by data-informed self-evaluation and absolutely focused on the learners they work with. You can find out more about Improving Our Classrooms and how you might get involved [here](#). Improving Our Schools is also well underway in twenty primary schools and the development of Improving Our Departments and Faculties is making good progress and gearing up for a pilot starting in term four of this session.

Our Thinking About Headship programme is also well underway with the group looking at different themes, so far these include the Big Picture of Scottish Education, Values-Based Leadership and how Professional Reading informs and supports what you do as a leader. Along with the Leadership Learning Sets and Hexagon Coaching, these do a great job of connecting leaders across local authorities to work together and share successes, challenges and ideas. You can find out more about these on the [West Partnership website](#).

Lead officer - Cat Calvert

Email- cat.calvert@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk



Wellbeing for Learning

The Wellbeing for Learning Workstream has been very busy since the beginning of the academic session. We have begun our PSE offer with some excellent presentations on areas such as mental health and alcohol and substance misuse. This professional learning offer will continue in the new year with our next session on [Who is Telling the Message?](#) focusing on explicit material in PSE. The Keeping Trauma in Mind programme has now concluded with great success. This session we involved Educational Psychologists from across the West Partnership, adding their wealth of knowledge and experience along with current practice in our local authorities. The offer on UNCRC continues to grow from strength to strength with our Professional Learning programme and the Young Leaders of Learning initiative being rolled out. We have now trained six local authorities, 68 school leads and 408 young people in increasing the involvement of children and young people in school improvement.

[The Family Learning Programme](#) is back this session with even more practitioner input. This creative conversation is aimed at practitioners, staff, partners and Parent Councils across the West Partnership who have responsibility for or are involved in supporting children and families. Participants have 2 options to get involved with this programme:

1. Attend the cumulative sessions as professional learning
2. Attend the cumulative sessions as professional learning adding in a supported collaborative action research, linked with the Robert Owen Centre.

Lead Officer - Carol McArdle

Email- carol.mcardle@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk



**Curriculum, Learning,
Teaching
& Assessment**

The CLTA workstream has had a busy start to session 2022/2023. Practitioners, across the West Partnership, are currently taking forward their Collaborative Action Research (CAR) projects after completing the Primary Curriculum and Pedagogy for All programmes. Our Development Officer for Assessment and Moderation has been organising our annual moderation event which will take place in February 2023, as well as working alongside local authorities to create strategic visions and deliver training on assessment and moderation. [The annual Mathematics Conference](#), led by the Mathematics specialist network, will take place on Saturday the 21st of January 2023. Over 400 practitioners attended last session. We have also had an excellent response from educators across the West Partnership to our partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful and the [Upstream Battle](#) campaign to reduce Source to Sea and Marine litter in our environment. Over 60 schools have taken part in projects including an Art Competition. STEM challenge and CLPL course – with more activities coming in the [spring term](#).

The West OS team have been working hard to ensure a range of new and innovative resources make their way into classrooms across the partnership. Tune in to our new podcasts where subject experts help to explore metacognition and how to study; write a personal statement and the move to senior phase.

Keep your eyes peeled on our [twitter page](#) and [website](#) for all opportunities including the Mathematics Conference and the new curriculum offer coming soon for the BGE in Secondary.



@AlisonDreverWP

@WPCatCalvert

@WPCarolMcArdle

NEW TO THE WEST PARTNERSHIP

Meet Debbie our West OS Engagement Officer!

I am really excited to spread the word to practitioners, young people and parents about what the West OS can offer them to enhance their pedagogy and learning experiences. My background is in the Secondary sector where I worked as an English teacher for 18 years before moving to Support for Learning. My most recent role was as PT Support for Learning in a North Lanarkshire secondary school, so I am used to lots of variety and engaging with learners, parents and a wide range of staff including outside agencies on a day to day basis. I am keen to get out and about and meet lots of new people.



Debbie McGorry
West OS Engagement Officer
@WPDebbieMcGorry

As Engagement Officer, I will be leading the promotion of the West OS curricular programmes, packages and materials. This will involve delivering training to support colleagues, parents and learners in maximising their use of West OS and liaising with partners and leads from across the West Partnership and other Regional Improvement Collaboratives.

I am excited to have the opportunity to engage with colleagues across the primary / secondary / subject range and would be interested in hearing about any way in which I can be involved in regional / whole school / network / departmental events to promote the West OS and provide further information of how it can work for them in the classroom. I'm also really keen to speak to and work with young people to help them to maximise their use of West OS and show how it can improve their learning experiences. Additionally, I plan to work with parents to show them how they can support their child's learning through West OS. The range of teaching videos, podcast materials and live sessions are a fantastic resource for all and I can't wait to share more information about them.



@wp_education

NEW TO THE WEST PARTNERSHIP

Meet Shona our Assessment and Moderation Officer!



Shona McArthur
Assessment and Moderation
@WPshonamcarthur1

I have always been really interested in assessment and moderation, and how we can use the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Cycle to improve our practice, and in turn improve the education and outcomes for our young people. This, along with my love for collaboration, getting to work with the WP has been such a fantastic opportunity. The team are so driven, enthusiastic, encouraging, and positive, it is such a great place to work together.

My job is to support local authorities with their assessment and moderation practices in the BGE – working with Early Years, Primary and Secondary. This has included developing assessment guides for our website, working with local authorities to create strategic visions, delivering training and organising moderation events across our RIC in both the mainstream and ASN sectors.

I would like to engage all educational establishments within the West Partnership and ensure every practitioner is able to confidently assess their young people using a range of strategies, and that these strategies are regularly moderated to ensure there is consistency and the national standard is recognised. I deliver training across all local authorities, and I am also offering online training in early 2023 on assessment – sign-ups for this will begin early January for both primary and secondary.



@wp_education

NEW TO THE WEST PARTNERSHIP

Meet Alex our Research Assistant!!

Before working for the West Partnership, I graduated with a degree in psychology from the University of Glasgow. During my studies I learned how I could use the research skills I was developing to explore how staff and students can be supported to enhance learning experiences. My degree also involved a lot of collaboration, as we often worked in teams to use our diverse range of skills and ensure our findings had a positive impact. This was what first drew me to the West Partnership, as our team focusses greatly on working together to connect schools and enable them to share learning approaches that improve educational outcomes.



Alex Evans
Research Assistant
@WPalexevans

As a researcher, I am responsible for the evaluation of 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare. The key aspects of this have involved identifying a sample of nurseries that reflects the diversity of this region, creating research tools and resources that can be used with children, practitioners, and families. This will help us explore how 1140 hours has affected children's learning, development, and wellbeing during this time, and what impact it has had for parents and practitioners.

I am looking to engage with nurseries and early years settings who would like to participate in the 1140 hours evaluation. While select settings have been invited to contribute to this study, we can also welcome other establishments who may be interested in taking part. Any early years establishments who provide funded early learning and childcare within the West Partnership can register their interest by contacting me by email. Over the coming months, we will be running a number of data collection phases to measure children's outcomes, as well as hear from the perspectives of parents / carers and practitioners through surveys, interviews and focus groups. This will ensure that we hear from everyone involved in early years, and that our findings reflect the experiences found across the West Partnership.



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WEST OS PODCAST

This term has seen the launch of the West OS podcast series, these podcasts are for learners and staff!

The podcasts cover a wide range of burning topics that are sure to spark discussion and promote reflection in the classroom.

Podcast 1: Are you nervous about moving from S3 to Senior Phase? This podcast is FOR YOU!

Listen into this fascinating chat with Glasgow Caledonian University Counsellor-Caroline Melville as she discusses the move to S4 with a learner who has lived and breathed the experience. Top tips for adjusting to S4 life-complete with exams, supported study and balancing life. Why not listen in with your PSE Class? Year group Assembly?

Podcast 2: Personal Statement writing-

Want to perfect that personal statement? Listen in to GCU and Routes for All experts Rachel Hyslop, David Dawes and Starr McGibbon as they help learners navigate and refine this vital piece of work!



Podcast 3: Study Skills and Metacognition-Professor Jonathan Firth gives his evidence based advice on study methods and how learners can help themselves through this process and achieve exam success!

West OS
A Day in the life of
a Scientist.

COMING SOON!!!

West OS
A Day in the life of
a Police Officer.



January 2023 will see the release of our new career films that explore “A Day in the Life of” a Scientist, Police Officer, Teacher, Journalist and Nurse. Underpinned by the DYW “I can statements”; the vibrant and engaging films give an insight into these industries and more vitally-outline the key skills that are needed in each profession. From a scientist working in their lab and doing data analysis to a nurse explaining different medical instruments-these films encourage learners to think and will also help them to make relevant links between skills and career choices. Excitingly, these films will also be part of a set of primary/secondary transition lesson package and these will support learners to reflect on their own skills development as they progress from primary 7 to S1.



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WEST OS LIVE SUPPORTED STUDY



West OS has been running a five week programme of live and interactive study webinars. 15 different subjects were on offer, both at Higher and National 5 level. This programme was successful and proved popular with learners across the West Partnership and beyond. One major benefit of the online sessions is that young people get additional help in the run up to interim assessments in December and January.

I look forward to the weekly West OS sessions, the young people have been so engaged and motivated and this makes the sessions fly by!

Senior Phase Modern Studies Teacher

I like getting extra help and it does help me with my learning and makes me more confident.

N5 Business Pupil, S4

Sessions can be fairly direct, focussed and delivered at pace. Young people can ask questions via the message board which some may be more comfortable with rather than speaking out.

Senior Phase Maths Teacher, PT

West OS Live can help raise attainment as it helps young people to develop self-motivation and self-discipline in order to be accountable for their learning which builds resilience.

Senior Phase Business Teacher

I really liked the class size and attention was given to everyone. It was 10/10.

Higher Maths Pupil S5

These lessons do help and it's good getting extra support for my prelims which are in two weeks.

N5 Business S4 Pupil

West OS Live will be back with a packed programme next year which will continue to support learners with their exam preparation.

It's great to see that West OS Live can continue to provide help to learners.



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COLLABORATIVE WORKING

Our IOC Team have been working with our Assessment and Moderation officer to produce impactful sessions.

The last term has been bustling with collaboration as IOC is now working across 8 local authorities and brings together a diverse mix of primary, secondary and colleagues working outwith a mainstream setting. To foster positive relationships and collaborative opportunities, many sessions are now run as cross authority inputs, including our latest theme of Assessment and Moderation. This exciting twilight course highlights the important messages of assessment from The West Partnership and how practitioners can be empowered to implement these in a classroom setting. Our IOC teachers are encouraged to share these high-level messages with their senior management and take on leadership opportunities around this in their own settings.



Sessions explore different approaches to assessment; offer opportunities to work together and also support practitioners to consider assessment approaches used with learners in a certain context-loads of different inputs!

The IOC team took pre and post evaluations, the first one shows that practitioners (from 8 local authorities-primary, secondary and ASN) all had:

- An increase of knowledge and understanding around assessment following this input.

*In senior phase it is hard not to be driven by exams but this session allowed an approach to benefit all learners.
Secondary Teacher, South Lanarkshire*

We have been writing comprehensive guides to the four key approaches to assessment: Ongoing, Periodic, High Quality and Standardised.

[Click Here](#) to view our guides!!



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KEEP UP TO DATE

Have you missed our events?
Do you want to be kept more up to date?
There are a number of ways you can do this.

Head to our website

Our website hosts a range of resources including information on all of our workstream information, West OS & our core teams' contact details.

[CLICK HERE TO HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE](#)



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



Scan the QR Code!!



On our West OS Instagram we post all of our upcoming resources. Practitioners and young people can keep up to date with all things West OS by giving us a follow! Please tag us in your posts if you have enjoyed our resources @WESTOS_8

Sign up to our mailing list

Practitioners across The West Partnership are signed up to our mailing list to receive up to date information on what's going on. You can filter your updates to only hear about what suits you!

Head to our website and [sign up!](#)



EQUITY, EXCELLENCE & EMPOWERMENT

THE WEST PARTNERSHIP TEAM SAYS THANK YOU!

The whole West Partnership team would like to thank everyone for their contribution this year.

From those who have signed up for our sessions, left quality feedback, interacted with us on social media and utilised our resources- thank you.

We still have plenty of sessions planned and we don't want you to miss out - head to our website and [sign up to our mailing list](#) to hear about what's on first.

We hope everyone has a fantastic, well deserved festive break.

See you all in January.

To Read, To Watch, To Listen

We often share with our practitioners some of the things we have enjoyed reading, watching and listening to. Here are some of our recent favourites below.



To read:

**Cambridge International Education
Teaching and Learning Team**

[Getting started with Metacognition](#)



To watch:

[Every Kid Needs a Champion - Rita F. Pierson](#)



To listen:

[The Power of Loving Young People And Haircuts With Chris Kilkenny](#)

If you have read, watched or listened to something that you think may be of interest to our practitioners across The West Partnership, let us know by tagging us on Twitter - @wp_education.

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**Or you can head to our website and
send us a message on our chat box.
[CLICK HERE!](#)**