

## Samuel Ryder Academy Network Event

7th March 2017



Lucy Thompson (left), Deputy Headteacher at Samuel Ryder Academy (SRA) introduced the event's theme of innovation to an audience of over 60 people. Lucy reminded us that when there is such little time in schools for innovation, HertsCam makes us take the time. She then passed over to Lorette Hyslop who exemplified how engagement in the TLDW programme and the MEd enables teachers to innovate practice in schools. Lorette shared colleague Michelle Jenkins' journey of innovating boys' writing through a TLDW project and how this led to the MEd focusing on student leadership and an opportunity to share her knowledge internationally at a Network Event in Zagreb. Lorette shared her own MEd journey explaining that for innovation to take place you have to create the conditions: "HertsCam gave me the conditions that enabled me to grow and provided the environment that enabled me to flourish".



A diverse range of posters enabled networking and knowledge sharing. Some TLDW participants were presenting posters for the first time such as Sarah Tweddell from Robert Barclay Academy (left) whose project is focused on sixth formers developing strategies to raise awareness of mental health and well-being in school. As well as illustrating what she has done so far to promote mental health including organising a whole day of workshops, her poster also invited ideas from participants.

Lorraine Kerby's workshop raised a real leadership issue of how to get colleagues on board with a particular strategy. Having conducted learning walks, the issue was clear: a lack of consistency in practice regarding the teaching of more able learners. Should she enforce a "packaged" approach as she had seen when visiting another school? This generated much discussion about prescription versus choice. Strategies such as focusing on a particular skill such as higher order thinking with colleagues experimenting with this in their classrooms were shared. Washing lines of successful strategies and sharing strategies in staff briefings were some examples of ensuring that experimentation happened and knowledge was shared. Georgina Northcroft's workshop (above right) provoked much heated debate about how to feedback effectively to pupils. Contributions from colleagues from special, primary and secondary phases highlighted how diverse these contexts are and the importance of cross phase collaboration to improve learners' experiences.



### Light bulb moments from the network event



*Teaching and Learning really can become the heart of a school!*

*The importance of the use of language as a teacher*

*Possibly starting the MEd*

*Growth mindset is about the joy and curiosity of learning*

*How to improve my project*

Thank you to Lucy Thompson and Kelly Wilkinson for hosting the event and to Jasleen Dhillon, our HertsCam Administrator and Network Co-ordinators Paul Barnett and Emma Anderson for supporting the organisation of the event. We look forward to seeing you at the next Network Event at Peartree Primary School, Welwyn, 9<sup>th</sup> May.