

Introducing Alison Halford, our Assistant Director...

Alison first came across CUREE in 2001 when she was working for Cap Gemini Ernst and Young as a Project Manager for the DfEE (as it was) on the Teachers' CPD project. Part of this project was getting a host of CPD advocates across the country to share their expertise on the value of CPD for teachers. *"How far we have come!"* she says, from schools who sent teachers on occasional courses to today's CPD programmes which are collaborative and based on research, which build upon colleagues expertise in a co-ordinated way and are linked to school development plans.

Alison is proud to have been part of this journey having moved on from Teachers' CPD through projects on Gifted and Talented and the Innovation Unit and onwards to work for Heads, Teachers and Industry (HTI) where she was responsible for creating bespoke training for Schools and Colleges across the country. *"I am excited to have recently joined CUREE and to lead on a number of projects which have at their core mentoring and coaching and the fabulous resources that CUREE has developed."* These resources are available to schools directly to build their own coaching cultures and also for Local Authorities who are keen to support groups such as their NQTs, ASTs or Post Threshold teachers. *"I look forward to helping schools continue to get more value out of their CPD activities in the future."*



Alison Halford
CUREE Assistant Director

Welcome to our new website www.curee.co.uk

As of the beginning of September CUREE has launched a new website. All of the pre-existing content can be found there, along with new and improved functionality including:

- interactive forums
- members' areas
- enhanced search functions

The new site features easy to follow links and addresses, making the site far more user friendly. However, this may mean that links given to you (or featured in the newsletter) in the past may no longer function.

The improved search function should help you to find what you're looking for, but please feel free to contact michael.hawkins@curee.co.uk if there is anything we can help with. Why not have a look at the new site at www.curee.co.uk and if you have any feedback please let us know.



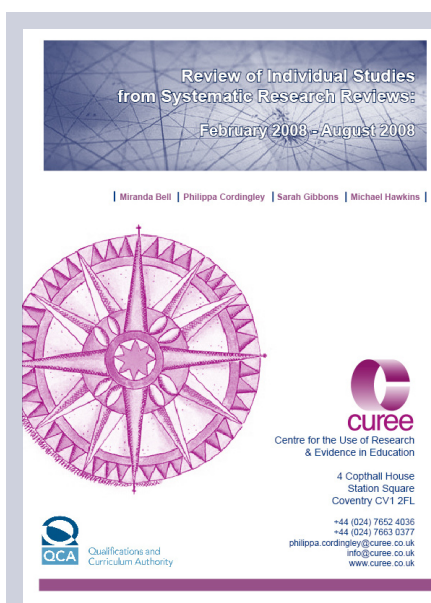
Expectations from the TDA Masters in Teaching and Learning project

CUREE is working with the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) on developing the Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL) programme.

Have you heard about the Government's new ambitions to make ready a Masters level progression? Are you wondering how the development of an entitlement to a Masters in teaching and learning (MTL) might relate to the evidence base and affect existing CPD? If so, CUREE's work to support TDA in developing MTL will be of direct interest.

CUREE is supporting TDA's work by:

- synthesising the evidence describing what is known about developing coaching capacity which will support professional learning at Masters level;
- facilitating two symposia, aimed at building a shared understanding amongst the stakeholders of what is meant by work based professional learning and the role of coaching in supporting it;
- illustrating the evidence relating to work based professional learning and coaching with relevant case studies;
- developing a set of principles for professional learning that will underpin the coaching process in MTL; and
- designing a specification of the programme for training coaches.



Building the Evidence Base Literature Review

The map of research reviews, which was completed in January 2008, highlighted six key findings which had a strong resonance with the claims QCA had made that underpinned the secondary curriculum. So it was decided to concentrate the remaining review work on extracting data from the individual studies underpinning the review in order to illustrate the abstract findings from the map with practical details. We also wanted to try and illustrate further QCA's curriculum claims.

The full report was completed in August 2008. It creates a substantial reference point or archive of illustrative material, provides a profile of the maturity of the evidence base in many key areas and offers an important springboard for further research and development. The report can be found in full at <http://www.curee-paccts.com/files/publication/1223287093/Year%201%20Literature%20Review.pdf> For more information, please contact sarah.gibbons@curee.co.uk

The **Research** Informed **Practice** Site

TRIPS digests on the DCSF Standards website, please click on the titles below:

With the introduction of the new Diplomas, the following TRIPS may be of interest for those involved in these new qualifications:

[Building mathematics skills in a vocational context](#)

[Affective teaching: a method to enhance classroom management - Does relating lessons to pupils' personal interests and experiences improve their behaviour?](#)

[The role of powerful pedagogical strategies in curriculum development](#)

Up coming events...

CUREE is supporting and facilitating many aspects of the **NTRP Teacher Research Conference 2008** on Monday 24th November at the QEII conference centre, Westminster. For more information visit <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/ntrp/conference/>

Making the Most of Mentoring and Coaching Opportunities is a free 2 day course designed to support NQTs and early career teachers in all phases to develop their professional learning skills, running on 20th January & 18th March 2009 at the Novotel Leeds. For more information visit <http://www.curee-paccts.com/what-we-offer/mentoring-and-coaching-development> or contact laura.smith@curee.co.uk

CUREE will be celebrating our **10th anniversary** on the 4th December at the Imagination Gallery London. For more information contact christine.loth@curee.co.uk

STEMNET works to help schools and colleges across the UK inspire their young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). CUREE's Philippa Cordingley will be giving a keynote speech at STEMNET's workshop at the Thinktank in Birmingham on the 18th November. For more information about STEMNET, visit www.stemnet.org.uk

CUREE welcomes the creation of LSIS



CUREE welcomes the development of the new Learning and Skills Improvement Service. This new body will join together the responsibilities of two key FE bodies (and also clients of CUREE!). The Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) and the Centre for Excellence in Leadership (CEL) have both been strong advocates of the use of evidence informing their activities and we look forward to supporting the work of LSIS as it builds its new direction and plans. Dame Ruth Silver, now chair of the Learning and Skills Improvement Service, announced Roger McClure as the organisation's chief executive. Roger was formerly the chief executive of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council and Ruth is the Principal of the highly regarded Lewisham College.

For over two years CUREE has advised on the content of the QIA's **Quality Improvement Journal** and produced the **Inside Evidence** pages. Inside Evidence provides summaries of research evidence relevant to current issues facing practitioners, leaders and policy makers in the Further Education system. In coming editions there will be an increased focus on research and so if you are aware of

relevant work or wish to raise issues for inclusion please contact kate.holdich@curee.co.uk. We are always looking for examples of high quality improvement in the learning and skills sector for reporting in the journal. These may be in the areas of teaching and learning, leadership, CPD or inter-agency collaboration, particularly where colleagues are:

- looking to implement new practice, and
- translating policy into improved learning experiences for students

If you are aware of work that colleagues across the sector should know about please contact colin.isham@curee.co.uk



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