

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



‘The overarching aim of the Minster Learning Alliance is that all pupils in our schools will benefit from our commitment to work collaboratively to share our strengths and support development.’

Teacher Development

AI in Education

Leadership Development

Networking and Moderation

Teaching Assistant Development

Primary and Secondary Music Hub

MITRE AI, Professional Skills and Teaching & Learning Hot Topics

The Minster Learning Alliance (MLA) was formed in September 2021, building upon the work of the Minster Teaching School Alliance over the previous eight years. The MLA serves our partnership of schools sharing best practice, learning from each other and supporting improvement in all member schools. This philosophy is expressed in our mission:

‘Together, we help every child to flourish, opening doors to fulfilling futures.’

At the MLA, we are proud to work with a wide range of respected organisations to ensure our professional learning offer meets the evolving needs of our member schools. Our strategic collaborators include Nottingham Trent University, the University of Nottingham, the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, the East Midlands East Maths Hub, the Redhill Teaching Hub and the Minster Trust for Education (MITRE). These partnerships allow us to draw on leading expertise and the latest research in education.

Together, we offer high-quality, evidence-informed professional development for all staff working in our schools - always with the aim of improving outcomes for children and young people. We work closely with our member schools to ensure that everything we offer is relevant, impactful, and grounded in real-world practice.

We believe in the power of collaboration and continuous learning. That’s why we welcome the opportunity to work with any school - regardless of phase, type, trust membership, religious character or location. By learning together, we grow stronger together.

We are pleased to present our Professional Learning for the 2026/27 academic year. If you are interested in joining the MLA or would like to explore potential collaborations, we would be delighted to hear from you. Our flexible approach means that schools can engage with the activities that best suit their needs - there are no minimum or maximum requirements.

This year, alongside our established programmes and networks, we are continuing to develop our professional learning offer to reflect the evolving priorities of our schools, ensuring our offer remains relevant, future-focused and responsive to need.

Our AI Champions Network continues to provide a space to explore emerging technologies, share best practice and understand how AI can be used effectively and ethically in education. Alongside this, our AI sessions will support colleagues to explore key developments and applications of AI, building confidence in this rapidly evolving area.

Through MITRE Hot Topics, we will continue to offer focused professional learning opportunities, providing colleagues with the opportunity to explore key themes, develop their practice and share approaches that support improved outcomes for children and young people.

Thank you for taking the time to explore what we have to offer. We hope to welcome you to one of our events very soon.

We warmly welcome staff from all schools to take part in our professional learning opportunities, as we believe that a diverse and inclusive network enriches everyone's experience. Schools can choose to engage in individual programmes or activities on a flexible 'pay-as-you-go' basis.

Alternatively, many schools find that becoming an MLA member offers the most cost-effective and impactful way to access a broad range of professional development throughout the year. MLA membership involves a one-off annual fee, tailored to the size of the school and calculated using pupil numbers from the previous October census. This fee helps sustain the leadership, coordination and delivery of high-quality learning opportunities - the MLA does not seek to make a profit.

By joining the MLA community, schools benefit not only from a rich programme of learning, but also from being part of a wider network committed to collaboration, innovation and continuous improvement.

MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

The cost of MLA membership is based upon the size of your school. Full membership for primary and secondary schools* is as follows:

Number of Pupils	Full membership fee	Full membership provides
Up to 75	£600	- Attendance at all networks and moderation groups. - Participation in our Leadership and Teacher programmes. - Unlimited participation in all our courses. - Access to session and programme resources, enabling you to share learning and best practice with colleagues across your school.
76 - 150	£850	
151 - 250	£1250	
251 - 400	£1750	
401 - 600	£2100	
601 - 800	£2500	
801 - 1200	£3000	
1201 +	£3500	

* If you lead a Special, Alternative Provision or Hospital school and are interested in full membership, please contact us to discuss an appropriate full membership arrangement.

The Minster Learning Alliance offers a range of professional learning programmes to support colleagues across the Trust. From developing leadership through Aspire to Lead, enhancing classroom practice with Elevate, to exploring current educational priorities through our Hot Topics programme, there are opportunities for all staff to develop their knowledge, skills and practice.

OUR PROGRAMMES

Aspire to Lead: From Practice to Impact

The Aspire to Lead programme develops your knowledge, understanding and application of key leadership behaviours and approaches. Over the course of two terms, you will work in mixed cross-phase groups, in face-to-face sessions, through personal reflection and individual learning in your school, and put your learning into practice by leading a project linked to your school's improvement priorities. You will also have access to a coach based in your school who will support your learning throughout the programme.

The programme is suitable for new or aspiring leaders, or existing middle leaders who are seeking to develop their practice and understanding of what makes them effective.

Format: Seven sessions across the year

Cost: £300 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings: [Aspire to Lead: From Practice to Impact](#)

Elevate: The MITRE Teacher Programme

The Elevate Programme is designed to develop the classroom practice of participants in the long-term and is facilitated by staff with expertise in and a passion for both the science and craft of teaching. This programme provides the opportunity to reflect on and develop pedagogy, engage with evidence and research on what makes effective teaching and become reflective practitioners.

This programme is for any teacher who wants to develop their practice in a supportive environment, focusing on what makes great teaching. Typically, we work with teachers in the developing years of their career following the Early Career Framework, although the programme is also suitable for more experienced colleagues who want the chance to revisit and develop their pedagogy.

Format: Seven sessions over 2 terms, with a mixture of afternoons and twilights

Cost: £300 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings: [Elevate: The MITRE Teaching Programme](#)

OUR PROGRAMMES

MITRE Hot Topics

Our Hot Topics programme has been developed in response to feedback from colleagues across our Trust, including those working in operational and non-classroom-based roles. We have expanded our programme to include sessions focused on the skills, knowledge and confidence that support everyday practice.

These one-hour online sessions provide practical, evidence-informed guidance, helping participants develop their knowledge, reflect on current practice and explore strategies that can be implemented within their own setting.

All Hot Topic sessions are open to every member of staff. Whether you are looking to broaden your knowledge, explore a new area or support your own professional development, you are welcome to attend any session.

Format: 1 hour online sessions throughout the academic year

Cost: £40 per person for non-MLA members (3 for 2 offer), £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings (*[please click on the session titles below to book your place](#)*):

AI Hot Topics

[Using Chalkie to get the most from your planning](#)

[Using Chalkie to create a lesson series](#)

[Using AI to Make Everyday Work Easier](#)

[Using Chalkie to Support Individual Learners and Adaptive Teaching](#)

[Using Chalkie to Collaborate with Colleagues and Build Shared Resources](#)

[Using AI for Workflows: From Busy to Efficient](#)

[Using Canva to Create Professional Resources](#)

Professional Skills Hot Topics

[Understanding and Responding to Pupil Behaviour](#)

[Communication that Works: Building Positive Relationships](#)

[Mental Health and Wellbeing: Caring for Yourself Whilst Supporting Others](#)

[OPAL Play and Supporting Positive Experiences](#)

[Understanding and Promoting the Mental Health of Children and Young People](#)

[Successfully Managing a Project](#)

OUR PROGRAMMES

MITRE Hot Topics - continued

Teaching & Learning Hot Topics

[Understanding PDA Profiles and PANDA](#)

[Supporting Pupils with Dyslexia Through Technology](#)

[Pupil Premium in Practice: Supporting Impact Across Our Schools](#)

[Every Voice Counts; how you can support speech and language in the classroom](#)

[Introduction to Declarative Language](#)

[Supporting our EAL pupils and students](#)

[New National Curriculum: Where Are We Now?](#)

[Young Carers: Understanding their experiences and needs](#)

[Adaptive Teaching: Deepening Practice](#)

[LAC and PLAC: Effective Support in Schools](#)

SEND Impact Programme

The Teaching Assistant Programme develops your knowledge, understanding and skills in supporting children with SEND in your role as a Teaching Assistant. The programme covers the four areas of need and the key ways in which you can support children with SEND to make progress and flourish.

The programme is suitable for all Teaching Assistants who are seeking to develop their practice and understanding of what makes them effective.

Format: Six face-to-face sessions over two terms

Cost: £300 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings: [SEND Impact Programme](#)



The Minster Learning Alliance (MLA) offers a range of professional networks and specialist courses to support colleagues in their roles. Through collaboration, expert input and the sharing of best practice, these opportunities help staff develop their knowledge, skills and professional networks across the Trust.

NETWORKS AND COURSES

AI Champions Network – Exploring AI in Education

Following a successful first year, our AI Champions Network continues to bring together colleagues from across the Trust to explore the potential of AI in education.

This network provides a space to share best practice, celebrate successes, trial new AI tools and learn from one another as AI continues to evolve. Whether you are new to AI or already using it in your role, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and help shape the Trust's future approach to AI.

Open to all staff, in any role. No previous AI experience is required.

Format: Six sessions a year, 2 per term

Cost: £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings: [AI Champions Network – Exploring AI in Education](#)

Business/Office Manager Network

This network is a professional forum designed to support those leading on finance, operations and administration across schools. This collaborative network offers a supportive space to share expertise, discuss a wide range of topics, gain practical insights and stay ahead in a rapidly changing educational environment.

This network is for Business/Office Managers and Finance Officers.

Format: Three sessions a year, 1 per term

Cost: £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings: [Business/Office Manager Network](#)

Designated Safeguarding Lead Network

This network brings together Designated Safeguarding Leads to share legislative and policy updates, best practice and emerging safeguarding priorities. It provides a collaborative forum to support continued professional development and strengthen safeguarding practice across our schools.

This network is for all DSLs in primary and secondary schools.

Format: Three sessions a year, 1 per term

Cost: £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings: [Designated Safeguarding Lead Network](#)

NETWORKS AND COURSES

Moderation Groups

The MLA runs three moderation groups for primary colleagues: EYFS, KS1 and KS2. These provide the opportunity to share examples of work, marking standards and inform curriculum development. The moderation groups are for colleagues involved in the planning, delivery and assessment of the curriculum in each key stage.

Format: Moderation groups operate on a termly basis with 3 sessions per year

Cost: £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings:

[EYFS Network and Moderation](#)

[KS1 Moderation](#)

[KS2 Moderation](#)

Nottinghamshire Music Hub - Primary Music Network

This network provides a strong and supportive learning community, ideal for leaders and teachers who wish to work together to explore best practice in music education from a national and local perspective. It provides the opportunity for professionals to collaborate and share strategies to improve outcomes and experiences for pupils in all schools.

This network is for Primary subject leaders and those involved in delivering music in Nottinghamshire schools.

Format: Three sessions a year, 1 per term

Cost: £120 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members.

Details and bookings: Primary Music Network (*dates and booking details TBC*)

Nottinghamshire Music Hub - Secondary Music Network

This network provides opportunity for secondary music colleagues to collaborate, share practice and develop consistency in assessment. Sessions will focus on GCSE and A-Level Music standardisation and moderation, including reviewing student work, discussing assessment approaches and sharing effective practice across departments.

This network is for Secondary subject leaders and those involved in delivering music in Nottinghamshire schools.

Format: Two sessions a year, Autumn and Spring

Cost: £0 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members.

Details and bookings: Secondary Music Network (*dates and booking details TBC*)

NETWORKS AND COURSES

Primary Leaders Network

This network offers a supportive space to explore key aspects of leadership, share good practice and reflect on real-life case studies. Leaders will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions around current educational issues, collaborate with peers and develop practical strategies to take back to their schools. Whether you are looking to grow your leadership confidence, stay informed or simply connect with others in similar roles, this network is here to support your journey.

This network is designed specifically for senior leaders (excluding Head Teachers) working in primary schools.

Format: Three sessions a year, 1 per term

Cost: £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings: [Primary Leaders Network](#)

SENCO Network

This network offers the opportunity to share updates on local and national developments in SEND, develop skills and knowledge, learn from new and innovative research, and network with colleagues to share and further develop their practice.

This network is for SENCOs in primary and secondary schools.

Format: Three sessions a year, 1 per term

Cost: £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings: [SENCO Network](#)

Senior Mental Health Lead Network

This network offers a supportive and collaborative space for SMHLs across our schools to come together, share best practice and lead meaningful change in their school communities towards a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing for pupils and staff.

The network also supports schools in aligning their mental health strategy with safeguarding, SEND and curriculum development.

The network is for Senior Mental Health Leads in both primary and secondary schools.

Format: Three sessions a year, 1 per term

Cost: £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings: [Senior Mental Health Lead Network](#)

NETWORKS AND COURSES

Teaching Assistant Network

This network offers a platform to share best practices, access resources, and gain support from peers. Whether you are looking to enhance your skills, stay updated on SEND developments, or connect with colleagues, the Teaching Assistant Network is here to empower you in your role, making a positive impact in every student's educational journey.

The network is for primary and secondary phase teaching assistants and other educational support staff who work with pupils and students.

Format: Three sessions a year, 1 per term

Cost: £150 per person for non-MLA members (3 for 2 offer), £0 for MLA members

Details and bookings: [Teaching Assistant Network](#)

Initial Teacher Education

The Minster Learning Alliance works closely with Nottingham Trent University as a Strategic Partner in delivery of teacher training at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

To discuss the range of opportunities available in offering placements and engaging in the delivery of training, please contact: Nicole Lyons, Leader of Teacher Education n.lyons@mitretrust.org.uk | 01636 551123

CONTACTS

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