



The University of Bedfordshire's 2nd Regional Conference for
Teaching Assistants

The value of teaching assistants

March 30th 10am-12.50pm

Dear Teaching Assistant,

As part of our commitment to supporting the region's teaching assistants we are pleased to offer you an opportunity to attend **The University of Bedfordshire's 2nd Regional Conference for Teaching Assistants**, *The value of teaching assistants*, on March 30th 10am-12.50pm completely for free.

Whether you have worked with us before or not, you should be aware that our ethos here at The University of Bedfordshire is about widening participation. We want to ensure that teaching assistants have just as strong CPD as teachers as we see education as a community of practice. We took advice about the timing and have pitched it between 10-12.50pm so that you can attend during the day. You might join together with other assistants to attend the conference as a group, or it might be you each have your own log in.

You will see attached to this letter an outline of the conference and a letter for your headteacher. Please forward the outline and letter to your headteacher in order that you get permission to attend the conference. Please visit this [link](#) to let us know if you are intending to attend the conference. If the link does not work, please email Allyson Goodchild with details and she will register you for the event.

If you would like to know anything more about the conference, please write to us directly at either james.shea@beds.ac.uk or allyson.goodchild@beds.ac.uk.

Kind regards

Dr James Shea, Principal Lecturer in Teacher Education

Allyson Goodchild, Senior Tutor in Education Studies

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https://beds-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/92810054289 10.00-10.15am Welcome from Allyson Goodchild 10.15-10.35 1 st Keynote: Teaching Assistants – helpful or not? What does the research say? Dr James Shea							
Host	Mistry Malini	Nina McKay and James Simpson	Emma Brooks and Kalib De Merchant	Michelle Sogga and Karen Siddons	Symon Quy	Allyson Goodchild	Dr Karen Wicks and Nicola Sayers
10.35 - 11.20	Workshop 1 Supporting children with EAL	Workshop 2 Understanding children's relationship with learning	Workshop 3 Supporting children within foundation subjects art, design & technology, drama and music	Workshop 4 An introduction to Forest School	Workshop 5 Supporting literacy	Workshop 6 Becoming a teacher without a degree	Workshop 7 Supporting children in learning mathematics
Host	Ian Roberts		Dr Kathryn Nethercott and Sue Lane	Mohammed Amin	Dr Karen Wicks and Nicola Sayers	Dr James Shea and Dr Peter Virnuls	Michelle Sogga and Karen Siddons
11.25- 12.10	Workshop 8 Supporting children in physical education		Workshop 9 Supporting children with ECHPs and specific needs	Workshop 10 Inspiring children from BAME backgrounds	Workshop 11 Supporting children in learning mathematics	Workshop 12 Becoming a teacher with a degree	Workshop 13 Routes into teaching in the early years
Break 12.10-12.30							
https://beds-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/99707776672 12.30-12.50 2 nd Keynote: Adaptation and differentiation – is there a difference? Dr Gareth Bates							



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Dear Headteacher,

As part of our commitment to providing high quality CPD, **free** at the point of delivery, to our regional partners, we are pleased to offer to your teaching assistants an opportunity to attend **The University of Bedfordshire's 2nd Regional Conference for Teaching Assistants**, *The value of teaching assistants*, on March 30th 10am-12.50pm.

Our ethos here at The University of Bedfordshire is about widening participation. There are often online CPD events for teachers, but we rarely see a similar offer for teaching assistants who are an intrinsic part of any school. If you are reading this letter, then it is because a teaching assistant has sent this letter to you asking you for permission to attend this event. We have timed the event to be from 10 am to 12.50pm to be as inclusive as possible. It might be that the teaching assistants join together to attend the conference as a group, or it might be they each have their own log in.

You will see attached to this letter a programme of delivery so that you can assure yourself of its high standards and quality of offer.

If you would like to know anything more about the conference, please write to us directly at either james.shea@beds.ac.uk or allyson.goodchild@beds.ac.uk.

Kind regards

Dr James Shea, Principal Lecturer in Teacher Education

Allyson Goodchild, Senior Tutor in Education Studies