

New year message from MSDP 2016

Hello to everyone within our Midland Staff Development Partnership

This email aims to set out our themes and activities for the year ahead.

To enable Nick (Gallagher-Hughes) to concentrate his efforts as Chair of the Staff Development Forum (SDF) I have taken on the role of MSDP Chair with the support of Pam Thomas from Derby as our MSDP Meetings Officer.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone all the very best as we move into this new year.

In this message I have tried to include an overview of planned activities for the forthcoming year along with some points of housekeeping which need reviewing. It makes for a longer read than is usual for MSDP communications so please bear with me to the end!

My first task as Chair is to try to refresh our MSDP contact list by identifying new colleagues within our region and those who have moved post or passed on their MSDP responsibilities to another team member. If you are one of these newly included in our list may I offer a warm welcome. If you think the email should be re-directed please see the information about updating contacts at the end of this email (this will be an ongoing task akin to repainting the Forth bridge :-).

MSDP Theme for 2016: “Enhancing our credentials within Higher Education”

This theme is interlinked with an SDF initiative to work with the Higher Education Academy (HEA) to support staff developers gain [HEA Fellowship accreditations](#). Members of the SDF executive are meeting with the HEA early in the new year to discuss setting up regional workshop sessions to assist members in completing their evidence based applications.

This provides us with an opportunity to support our staff developers in the MSDP region gain an accreditation which has real resonance with our key stakeholders in the HE sector. It will also demonstrates our “connectedness” with our academic communities.

I hope to have further information to discuss with colleagues at our first meeting of 2016, hosted by De Montfort University on Wednesday 2nd March. Some Universities already have arrangements in place so you may wish to check what yours are. In the meantime members who do not have their own internal scheme may wish to discuss this topic with their Heads of Department as it is likely that institutions will need to fund the application fees for individuals.

Meetings and Activities for the year ahead

To enable members to plan ahead for this and subsequent years we traditionally meet on the first Wednesday of March, July and December of each year. The plan at this stage is to hold 4 events in 2016 (see below). Pam Thomas will be coordinating the logistics et al, so please look out for communications from Pam in the near future.

- **Wednesday 2nd March De Montfort University: Scheduled MSDP format meeting** Pam is hoping to confirm an afternoon session with Grace Marshall from company [Think Productive](#) showcasing the work Grace is undertaking with academic colleagues on managing productivity and complex workloads in a number of Universities.
- **Wednesday 25th May : University of Birmingham: (EXTRA Date) [Sim-Uni special](#)** Following her overview of the [University Simulation Game](#) at our Cranfield (July 2015) meeting. Mary Dees, Director of pixelfountain, has kindly offered us an opportunity to experience a working simulation and Kate Crane has kindly offered to host the event at Birmingham.
 - This is an opportunity to invite other colleagues from your University (initially a maximum of 4 per institution) to play the simulation. Smaller groups and individuals can be grouped into teams. I have been advised that we would go up to circa 40 participants.
 - Pam will send out further details with regard to registering your (and your group) participation in this event.
 - ***So please start discussing with your colleagues as to who may be interested in coming.***
- **Wednesday 6th July TBC: HEA Fellowship Application Workshop surgery**
 - Depending on what transpires with the SDF discussions with the HEA (this month) in holding Fellowship application workshops our hope is that we can incorporate this into our pre-diarised meeting schedule. Given that this may attract interest from our wider staff developer community we may select a venue which has good transport links.
 - (Alternatively if we are unable to coincide this event with the HEA fellowship initiative then this meeting will revert to the regular MSDP meeting scheduled venue of Harper Adams University.) ***Watch this space.***
- **Wednesday 7th December: University of Birmingham**
 - The theme for this session will be a sharing of learnings and insights from the SDF Conference being held in Sheffield (10 and 11 November 2016).

The session will provide a mix of overviews and highlights for members who were unable to attend the conference and to further develop the themes for delegates who had attended.

Other activities in the coming year

MSDP finance account: I have started the process of setting up a society bank account to better manage the stewardship of the MSDP reserve funds. This will require your approval at our meeting on 2nd March.

[SDF website MSDP region](#). Pam and myself have been given access rights to the MSDP website and we shall be contacting members to further populate our pages. In future meeting notes will be posted to this site to reduce the volume of e-mail traffic for MSDP members.

Identifying and refreshing the [partnership representatives contact details](#). You will see that I have updated this web page with all the MSDP contacts. **The question is are they correct and do you have a head and shoulders photo (optional) you would be willing to send?**

Going forward we would like to encourage one representatives from each University to attend our meetings and then disseminate information to appropriate colleagues within their own institution.

Please can you let myself and Pam know as to who at your institution:

First representative (main point of contact):

Name, Job role title, University, email address, phone number:

Second representative:

Name, Job role title, University, email address, phone number:

In addition I would like to reiterate a previous custom and practice where MSDP members are welcome to bring a colleague to our meetings where they think the topic under discussion would be of interest to them. There is no charge, you just need to let us know in advance for catering purposes.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and I hope to meet and catch up with many of you in 2016.

Best wishes

Ian Whiting
MSDP Chair

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