HLTA – Development and Assessment Route 2027

This programme prepares candidates to be assessed against the national HLTA standards, leading to the award of HLTA status. It is intended for teaching assistants who wish to further develop their teaching skills before being assessed for HLTA status.

Course structure

To support candidates in gaining HLTA status and developing outstanding practice, the course provides both preparation for statutory assessment and development sessions for a deeper understanding of the role of an HLTA.

Candidates will attend four full face-to-face days and 7 twilight sessions over the duration of two terms. The four full days will focus on preparing candidates for assessment and how to present evidence to meet the national HLTA standards. Our additional twilight sessions, designed to provide a further development element for aspiring HLTAs, will focus on areas such as behaviour management, SEND, the theory behind education, curriculum and ICT.

What do candidates have to do?

To support the development of candidates' ability to teach whole classes, candidates will need to have the opportunity to teach each week in their own school during the course. As part of the assessment process, candidates will have to provide a portfolio of evidence to show that they meet the HLTA standards and will be assessed in school by an independent assessor. Candidates will need use of a laptop, wifi access and ability to access their school files for this programme in order to meet assessment requirements.

Course Fees

The cost of this course is £1450 (£1150 for Swaledale Alliance Members). The fees include the cost of the face-to-face assessment preparation days, twilight development sessions, registration and assessment fees. Options are available for delegates to part or self-fund.

Entry qualifications for candidates

Prior to starting the course, it is essential that candidates have a Level 2 qualification in both English and Maths. Examples of Level 2 qualifications that are acceptable include: GCSE Grades A*-C; Adult Literacy or Numeracy. **We will need to see original certificates for both qualifications.**

Further information can be found here.

Headteacher and Mentor Support

In supporting a candidate's application for this course, headteachers will be asked to confirm that the candidate has the ability to achieve the HLTA standards within the duration of the course. The standards can be found on the HLTA National Assessment Partnership website at www.hlta.org.uk.

It is important that candidates have the facility to practice and develop their skills. It is imperative therefore that they have a timetabled commitment to teach a class for approximately half day per week for the duration of the course. During the first term, there is an expectation that the class teacher supports the candidate in the classroom. The candidate's school must be willing to allocate an in-school mentor to support their development (this could be the teacher of the class they are working in). The mentor must be an experienced and capable teacher – someone who is able to support the candidate's pedagogical development effectively throughout the course.

Programme 2027

Date	Session focus	Led by
TW 1 7th January 2027	Intro and registration Course content outlined Mentor guidance	LR & CL
Full Day 1* **14th January 2027**	**HLTA Prep day 1** What makes a good HLTA? Standards 1-16	LR & CL
TW 2 21st January 2027	*Individual pupil support – feedback re task A* **Focus** – supporting and advancing learning in the classroom with individuals/small groups (stds 29, 30)	LR
TW 3 28th January 2027	**Focus** – Area of expertise, explore advancing learning and sharing with colleagues and in school.	CL
Full Day 2* **4th February 2027**	**HLTA Prep day 2** Focus - Writing up tasks for the file Standards 17 - 33	CL
TW 4 25th February 2027	How to evidence standards 1,2,3.	LR
Full Day 3 **11th March 2027**	**Development Day** Planning and teaching – key principles Systems for annotation, organisation etc SEND & Code of Practice (Std 15) / Develop Teaching Practice	CL & LR
TW5 8th April 2027	**Focus** Assessment and feedback to teachers (Std 22 – 25) & advancing learning. How to demonstrate learning has been advanced (29,30 & 31)	LR
TW6 22nd April 2027	Support Session	
Full Day 4 * **29th April 2027**	**HLTA prep day 3** The assessment process Focus on F9/10 tracking grid	LR & CL
TW7 13th May 2027	Support Session	

*** Please note that in line with HLTA North stipulations, attendance at these full day sessions is mandatory.**

- Full day: 9.30am – 3pm Twilights: 4pm – 5.30pm
- TW sessions 1-6 focus on developing areas of your practice with reference to the standards.
- The 4 full days and TW 7 are for developing your knowledge and understanding of the HLTA standards and for supporting you in working on your assessment files – please bring to all these sessions.
- Following feedback received from our previous cohorts, all sessions are in person and held at the Swaledale Alliance Training Room, Brompton-on-Swale CE Primary School, DL10 7JW. Virtual options may be available for twilight dates.

Course Facilitators

Catherine Lawton – Teacher with Ripon Rural Partnership Schools
Liz Roberts – HLTA, Eppleby Forcett and Middleton Tyas CE Primary Schools

What is the format of the assessment?

The assessment comprises of a series of virtual interviews by an HLTA North assessor who will have received the candidate's portfolio of evidence in advance. During the assessment, the assessor speaks to the candidate, to colleagues and to the headteacher (or another member of the leadership team).

The assessment window for our 2027 course will be between 27th May and 1st July (approximately)

Who validates the award?

HLTA status is accredited by the HTLA National Assessment Partnership. This body awards nationally recognised HLTA status. This course is accredited via "HLTA North of England". Further details can be found on the Partnership website at www.hlta.org.uk

How to Apply

Please email application form to Margaret Thompson (Swaledale Alliance Executive Officer) mthompson@swaledalealliance.org to secure your place.