

Press Release – For Immediate Release (12.11.15)

## **The Big Staff Meeting – Good teachers know good teaching**

### ***National membership consultation rallies teachers to shape their new professional body***

The College of Teaching, the new independent chartered professional body for the teaching profession, has today (12<sup>th</sup> November 2015) launched a national awareness campaign – *The Big Staff Meeting* – to take place in schools on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2016. The new initiative includes a major consultation on key membership questions facing the College and is the first initiative developed by the Founding Trustees of the College since their appointment in September.

*The Big Staff Meeting* calls on teachers to put aside half an hour to help determine the future membership of the College of Teaching on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2016, where a number of schools will host their discussions as part of their INSET day. However, schools can take part any time in the run up to the February half term.

Following involvement in *The Big Staff Meeting*, teachers across the country will be asked to take part in a national consultation by responding to key membership questions online. These questions will explore teachers' views on who should be part of the College and the membership offer that will inform the future development of the College.

Claire Dockar, Teacher at Lipson Co-operative Academy in Plymouth and Founding Trustee of the College of Teaching, says: "*The Big Staff Meeting* is a very exciting development and I urge all teachers to get involved and have your say. Good teachers know good teaching and the College of Teaching gives us an opportunity for the profession to come together to set its own standards.

"*The Big Staff Meeting* introduces to schools and teachers the College's place in the professional landscape of teaching in the UK. The development of the College has to date been carefully designed to benefit the profession as a whole. Now all teachers across the country can have their views counted and help the Trustee board to shape the future direction of the College of Teaching.

"The College must be owned by its future members to be truly independent and to contribute significantly to the professional autonomy of teachers. By taking just half an hour out of a school day through *The Big Staff Meeting*, teachers can have their say and play a key role in changing the future direction of the profession."

*The Big Staff Meeting* pack is available for schools, including points for discussion and the key questions to be explored alongside a downloadable poster. In addition, a short PowerPoint is available for use in *The Big Staff Meeting* alongside advice for organisers to help them plan their meeting and run it successfully.

Schools can take part in *The Big Staff Meeting* between now and February half term with the membership consultation closing at the end of February.

To download *The Big Staff Meeting* pack and supportive resources, visit [www.claimyourcollege.org/big-staff-meeting](http://www.claimyourcollege.org/big-staff-meeting).

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#### **For further information**

For further information, please contact Laura Smith at [lsmith@collegeofteaching.ac.uk](mailto:lsmith@collegeofteaching.ac.uk) / 07467 945848.

Alternatively you can contact Lisa Church and Charlotte Hussey at Consilium Communications on [lchurch@consiliumcommunications.co.uk](mailto:lchurch@consiliumcommunications.co.uk) / [chussey@consiliumcommunications.co.uk](mailto:chussey@consiliumcommunications.co.uk).

#### **Notes to Editors**

##### **About the Big Staff Meeting**

- *The Big Staff Meeting* calls on all teachers to put aside half an hour to help determine the future membership of the College of Teaching – the new independent chartered professional body for the teaching profession.
- All supporting documents (*The Big Staff Meeting* pack, downloadable poster, short PowerPoint and advice for organisers) can be downloaded from [www.claimyourcollege.org/big-staff-meeting](http://www.claimyourcollege.org/big-staff-meeting).
- Teachers will, following their involvement in *The Big Staff Meeting*, be encouraged to submit their feedback to membership questions via [www.research.net/r/N3L3KMC](http://www.research.net/r/N3L3KMC), an online survey hosted by The Education Company on behalf of the Claim Your College coalition.
- All feedback will be fed in to the national membership consultation, which will close at the end of February.
- Results from the national membership consultation period will be made available from mid 2016.

##### **About the College of Teaching and Claim Your College campaign**

- The College of Teaching aims to give teachers equality of status with other professions by advancing high standards, recognising excellence and promoting evidence-based practice and policy. It will not have a regulatory role, will be independent of government and membership will be entirely voluntary.
- The Claim Your College coalition was originally initiated by the existing College of Teachers, The Prince's Teaching Institute, the Teacher Development Trust and the SSAT in collaboration with practising teachers and school leaders.
- The work of the Claim Your College coalition builds on a Blueprint for a new College of Teaching, which was published by The Prince's Teaching Institute in February 2014. The Blueprint resulted from a commission led by The Prince's Teaching Institute and was informed by two 2012 publications: *Towards a Royal College of Teaching* (RCS) and *Great Teachers: attracting and retaining the best* (Education Select Committee, May 2012).
- Claim Your College is backed by a 450-strong coalition. This includes a wide range of organisations and individuals from across the education sector including unions, subject associations, schools, practising teachers, school improvement and leadership organisations and third sector organisations.
- There are numerous benefits of joining a College of Teaching when membership is open, from being accredited against valid, portable, respected, sector-led standards; gaining access to a career pathway that informs high-quality professional development and learning and building a validated portfolio documenting professional impact based on classroom experience.
- Members would sign up to a common code of practice that reflects aspirational standards of teaching, an evidence-informed approach to practice, ethical behaviour, promotion of the profession and the best possible opportunities for learners.
- To find out more about Claim Your College and the College of Teaching, visit [www.claimyourcollege.org](http://www.claimyourcollege.org).
- Follow Claim Your College @CollOfTeaching #CollegeOfTeaching #ClaimYourCollege.
- Like Claim Your College on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/claimyourcollege>.
- Pledge to support the College of Teaching at <https://claimyourcollege.hubbub.net/>.