

January 2021

Dear Members,

As my first year in the role of National Events Chair draws to a close, it's time to look back over the last 12 months. Who would have thought that this time last year we would have been preparing for the only live ETAS event of 2020?

As National Events Chair it is my remit to organise the Annual Conference in January, and Professional Development Day in September. Last year the Annual Conference was held in Zug and I am happy to say that the event was well-attended with around 180 teachers with several new members attending which was very encouraging. There was a good range of interesting workshops and two excellent plenaries, together with a comprehensive book exhibition, which is always a highlight of our events. We were very happy with the venue and the feedback from the attendees & exhibitors was very positive.

In February/March plans were put in place for the planned Professional Development Day in Gümligen at the International School of Bern. The Call for Papers was online and I was beginning to slowly put the programme together. However, by June, it became clear that due to the pandemic, a face-to-face conference was looking increasingly unlikely. We therefore decided to look into organising an online PD Day, which would be offered to our members free of charge.

I contacted regular ETAS workshop presenters/speakers, they were all firstly, hugely relieved that we were planning an online event and secondly, more than happy to present at the online event. So, together with the amazing support of Ben Hoyt in his role of Web Chair and the other members of the Events Team, we were able to put on the very first ETAS Online Professional Development Day. We were delighted that almost 100 teachers signed up and attended the event, again, the feedback was overwhelmingly supportive of our efforts to continue to provide a high standard of professional development for our members.

At the end of September, we made the decision to hold the Annual Conference online and as it turns out, it was definitely the right decision to have made. We are looking forward to a successful day of plenaries, workshops and offering participants the chance to mingle in Gather Town and chat to the publishers who will be present. As I write, the registrations continue to roll in, and we are looking forward to a good turnout from members and hopefully, some non-members too.

Don't forget, we are always looking out for new talent so if any of you members would like to give a workshop, I would be delighted to hear from you, I would love to see more workshops given by the talented teachers we have in our membership, so please do think about participating. The Call for Papers for the Professional Development Day 2021 will be online at the end of February.

I am looking forward to working with the members of the new committee, led by Ben Hoyt, and the plans we have to take ETAS forward into this post-Covid era. The events team were amazing in 2020 and I look forward to organising successful events with them in the upcoming year.

I wish you and your families all a happy, healthy 2021 with much success in your teaching and look forward to seeing you at the Online Conference on January 16<sup>th</sup> and in person (Covid allowing) in Gümligen on September 11<sup>th</sup> for the PD Day.

Best wishes,

Jayne Kyte

National Events Chair

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