

September Newsletter 2015

Dear ETAS Member



ETAS News and Updates



Only a few days away ...

ETAS Professional Development Day 12th September in Sargans

A huge thank you to all those who have registered. Why not bring a teacher friend along as well? All are very welcome. It's going to be a fantastic event with lots of surprises. The [programme](#) is full of diverse workshops and extras. We're looking forward to connecting with you all. And by the way, we'll be using the hashtag, #EtasPD2015, to share all comments about our PD Day online to our Twitter followers. So join in the conversation. See you there!

Urgent! Parking update for ETAS PD Day

Members, **please take note of the following information** if you are driving to this event.

Contrary to the information given in the ETAS PD Day programme, parking near the Kantonsschule will not be possible due to unexpected circumstances. Free parking is now offered at:

Strassenverkehrs-Prüfstelle Wangser Bahnhofstrasse 71 8887 Mels

The car park will be **open for ETAS participants between 8.15 and 8.45** on Saturday morning. From there it is a 5 minutes walk to the venue.

Directions: Pass through the tunnel under the motorway and continue straight on to Pizolstrasse. After a couple of minutes you will see the Kantonsschule on your left. The

plan below will keep you on course.



We've got something to celebrate!

The news we've all been waiting for. **ETAS new website will be officially launched** and celebrated in conjunction with ETAS Professional Development Day on the 12th September in Sargans. Have your glass ready and drink a toast with us. Explore the site and let us know how you find it. Your valuable [feedback](#) will help us to gradually mould and customise the site into a virtual space that suits your needs as ETAS members.

Are you an ELT blogger?

Bloggers, don't miss out on this opportunity to link your ELT blog to an ETAS Journal page. Please send a brief description of your blog and a link to [Ben Hoyt](#) so that it can be added to this special feature page on ETAS's new website. What a terrific way to share our ELT thoughts and resources with one another!

Current ETAS Vacancies



Nominee for Treasurer: Raymond Rogers is finishing his term as ETAS Treasurer at the end of this year. If you're interested in taking over and being a member of the Executive Committee then please get in touch with [Raymond](#). The guidelines for this position can be accessed [here](#). He assures us it's a very rewarding position.

Regional Coordinators for Graubunden and St Gallen: Let's not keep these regions waiting on a Coordinator. Get in touch with [Annette Leimer](#) for further details. This can also be a joint position!

Co-Regional Coordinator for Baden: This sounds like a great opportunity to collaborate with Caroline Rickli. You'll not only learn an enormous amount from her experience as a Regional Coordinator, you'll also have fun helping her organise events in beautiful Baden. Mail [Caroline](#) for further details.

Young Learners SIG Coordinator: Is this your area of expertise? Then please contact [Urs Kalberer](#).

Social Media Coordinator: Do you love connecting online with a global audience? Then this position is for you. You'll be the voice that keeps followers up-to-date on everything to do with ETAS and more! Contact [Patricia Daniels](#) for further details. She'll help you hone your social media skills through Skype sessions or face-to-face meetings.

Events



Geneva 17th September: Teacherholics! This regular regional teacher meet is kicking off their first meeting of the school year at Pickwick's pub! Contact Regional Coordinators [Rachael Harris and Karen Greaney](#) for details and find out all about our new project!

Bern 22nd September: ELT Springboard. [Ben Hoyt](#) and [Dave Kaufher](#) have created this group and it's attracting attention in Bern. Here's all the [information](#) you need for the next meeting and while you're there, browse through their blog and check out some of the

positive feedback they've been receiving.

Ticino 10th October: Information exchange - Rassegna d'autunno - Cheese Festival.

Join Regional Coordinators, [Nicole Jaks and Meghan Jones](#), in an informal exchange.

Don't come empty handed though - bring 1-3 questions that you'd like answered.

Afterwards, a visit to the Rassegna d'autunno is on the agenda. Continue your discussion whilst snacking on alp cheeses and sipping Ticinese wines. Everything you need to know about this event can be accessed [here](#).

Lausanne 14th November: Learner-tainment. As the title suggests, this workshop is going to help you bring that fun element into your classroom. It's about bringing the WOW factor into ELT. Mary Schnueriger from Pearson will be presenting this event. Payment is on the day but you can register in advance online. Our Vaud Regional Coordinators, Ruth Benvegnen and Lucy Kottsieper, are waiting to welcome you. Save the date and [register now!](#)

Updated External Links

Our diverse list of links to [external events](#) just keeps on growing. Check out the latest addition, [Future Learn's free online courses](#). They've got courses such as, *Understanding IELTS: Techniques for English language Tests*, *Corpus Linguistics: Method, Analysis, Interpretation* and much more. Drop in and have a look for yourself.

IATEFL Webinars

Did you know that IATEFL hosts numerous webinars every year and many of these are also available to non-members? The **Testing, Evaluation and Assessment SIG**, for example, have a couple of webinars coming up shortly. On **21st October** Glyn Jones will be presenting *Finding the levels: a look at some of the research that underpins the Common European Framework*, and on **2nd December** it's Tony Green from CRELLA on *Teaching for Exams- a learning opportunity for teachers and examiners*. Drop into [IATEFL](#) and check out what's coming up. When attending a webinar, don't be surprised if you come across some familiar ETAS names; I've met many online.

Journal News



What content would you like to see published in the ETAS Journal?

The aim of the Publication Team is to produce Journals with interesting and practical ELT content that reflects the needs of ETAS members. In order to achieve this goal we need to know what you, as ETAS members, are interested in. So send us a [mail](#) and we'll use your suggestions to guide the future direction of ETAS Journal.

Are you creative? Look out for the **Call for Papers** for the Summer 2016 Journal on Creativity! [Get in touch](#) if you'd like to know more about submissions for our Spring and Summer Journals 2016.

Did you know that Readers' Café and Techy Corner are going online?

With both of these initiatives going online you'll be able to ask questions, share diverse ELT material and connect with one another. Check them out on our [new website!](#)

For the moment, Readers' Café will still retain its print form. If you have anything that you'd like to voice your opinion about or share, such as, your classroom experiences or happenings in your local teacher groups, then please [mail us](#). We'd love to hear from you. You'll find all the format details on page 12 in the Summer Journal.

Book Review news ...

Alison Taylor, former ETAS President, has published a gripping whodunnit called '*Sewing the Shadows Together*' under the name of Alison Baillie. The book will be reviewed in a future edition of the ETAS Journal. It's available to buy on [Amazon](#) and to borrow from the ETAS Library. Check it out!

Oxford University Press is kindly offering ETAS members the chance to do a **free course** on their new Oxford Teachers' Academy platform in exchange for a review for the ETAS Journal. What a great opportunity!

[Oxford Teachers' Academy](#) constitutes online, self-study professional development courses for English language teachers, developed by Oxford University Press. Session aims and topics have been mapped onto the EAQUALS Framework of Language Teacher Training and Development, and completion of the courses is certified by Oxford University Department for Continuing Education.

Current courses available are, '*Teaching English to Young Learners*' and '*Teaching English to Teenagers*', so the reviewer should be teaching in one of these areas. The reviewer would be required to complete one full course online (approx., 30 hours) and submit a review to ETAS. In return, the course is (exceptionally!) offered free of charge, and at the end of the course the reviewer will receive a [Certificate of Completion](#) (dependant on meeting the Evaluation Criteria for the course).

If you're interested in this fantastic offer, please mail [Helena Lustenberger](#).

Practical Teacher Tips and ELT Links



Screen Capture Technology

Have you ever felt that giving feedback by text is just not enough, or that pointing students in the direction of slides, videos or texts is confusing them more than it's helping them, or that practising pronunciation in class is not been given the attention that it deserves? Then why not use screen captures to improve the clarity of your instructions and to assist your students with those areas of language instruction where help is really needed and can be customised? Have a look at how [Russell Stannard](#) is putting screen capture to use in ELT. He suggests 10 useful ways, but I bet you can think of more! Enjoy the viewing.

Twitter for Academics and Researchers

Who would have thought that writing messages like this a few years ago would become the norm in some circles?



But is it really the norm, or are you still a bit confused about, RTs, MTs, hashtags, @ signs, DMs and what style you should be communicating in? Have a browse through this [guide](#) from the LSE Public Policy Group and through [Tweeters' Help Centre](#) to further your knowledge and to improve your Tweeting skills.

If you're not yet following ETAS on Twitter then come along and say hello at

@JournalETAS. We're always eager to help. Why not use the PD Day as a trial. We'll be using the hashtag #EtasPD2015 to share all comments about our PD Day online with our Twitter followers.

ETAS Office



The image above says it all. With the launch of the new website and the automation of certain functions, [Pamela](#) is busy learning how to manage all the tools and systems. Dear members, we ask you kindly to be patient with emails and telephone requests during this time. Thank you so much.

On behalf of Pamela, I would like to thank everyone who has supported her during this particularly busy phase of the website reboot. She is very grateful for how patient and considerate the members, the National Council and the Executive Committee have been. So thank you everyone for your understanding. It is very much appreciated.

One more point ...

Please take note of the **office phone hours** and **administration holidays for October**.

Phone hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-11:30

October holidays: October 1st - 15th

Mail Addresses



For your convenience, we've created a list of all the mail addresses included in this eNewsletter. They follow the order of the articles.

If you're having any **problems accessing links** then please mail cafe@e-tas.ch and direct your enquiries to Patricia.

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If you do not wish to receive future updates, please send an e-mail to our Administrator (office@e-tas.ch) with the words "No ETAS e-Newsletter please" in the subject line.

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