

Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants (MITA) – WELL



Cohort 3: Programme Outline

Delivered by: Sally Franklin, EEF TA Guidance Report Panel Advisor

When: Autumn Term 2026 – Summer Term 2027

Who: Open to 20 WELL schools (all phases)

Overview: At the heart of [Maximising the Impact of TAs](#) is the world-renowned research carried out by Rob Webster and colleagues, which found that the more support pupils received from TAs, the less progress they made - especially those with special educational needs.

Crucially, these results were not attributable to either pupil characteristics (i.e. prior attainment or SEN status) or anything TAs were doing. Instead, it was the way schools and teachers deployed and prepared TAs – factors that are out of TAs’ control – that best explained the surprising results. With a focus on addressing the widening attainment gap, the increase in the number of EHCPs and the complexity of need across mainstream schools, the effective use of support staff has become an increasingly urgent priority for many schools and LAs.

Delivered by the [EEF’s ‘Deployment of Teaching Assistants’ Guidance Report](#) panel advisor, Sally Franklin, Cohort 3 of this programme will focus on the updated research and findings and offer practical support to Senior Leaders, Teachers and TAs that participate.

Project Outline

- Research-informed programme aligned with the EEF’s [‘Deployment of Teaching Assistants guidance’](#)
- Focus on improving TA deployment, classroom practice and pupil independence
- Whole-school approach involving SLT, Teachers and Teaching Assistants
- Supported implementation planning throughout

Programme Structure (MITA & MPTA):

Training is delivered across **two complementary strands:**

MITA – Maximising the Impact of TAs (SLT focus)

MPTA – Maximising the Practice of TAs (Whole-Staff focus)

Session Details:

(PRE) EVALUATION: Completion of the RAG self-assessment tool

MITA Day 1 (SLT): Tuesday 29th September 2026 09:30 – 15:30, Whitehaven Golf Club

WHO: Two members of SLT (smalls schools = 1 member of SLT)

- Understanding the research and evidence
- Self-evaluation and setting a clear school vision
- Introduction to practical classroom strategies

MITA Day 2 (SLT): Thursday 19th November 2026 09:30 – 15:30, Whitehaven Golf Club

WHO: Two members of SLT (smalls schools = 1 member of SLT)

- Using self-evaluation findings
- Embedding MITA principles in practice
- Implementation planning

MPTA: Teaching Staff (Recorded) Webinar: (Early Spring Term)

WHO: Teaching Staff

School Leaders will be given access to a **recorded webinar** for Teaching staff within the MITA project. Summaries the latest research and guidance on the impact and use of TAs, offering guidance on the complimentary roles of Teachers and TAs, looking at the scaffolding framework as a tool for developing pupil independence and providing practical strategies to implement in the classroom. **Designed to be watched early within the Spring Term.**

MPTA: TA INSET Day – Monday 4th January 2027 09:30 – 15:30, Energus (Lillyhall)

WHO: TAs

Based on the acclaimed book, [*The TA's Guide to Effective Interaction*](#)

- Introduction to the scaffolding framework
- Practical strategies to support pupil independence
- Developing TA practice through reflection

MPTA: Teaching Staff (Live) Twilight Webinar – Thursday 29th April 2027 15:30 – 17:00, Online

WHO: Teaching Staff

- Practical strategies to strengthen teacher/ TA collaboration
- Recap and reinforce key messages from the programme to support planning and delivery
- Opportunities to collaborate and network with teachers across the WELL MITA Network

(POST) EVALUATION: Completion of the RAG self-assessment tool

Evaluation:

RAG self-assessment tool completed **pre- and post-programme**. Supports schools to review progress against guidance recommendations.

School Commitment:

Participating schools will:

- Ensure attendance from SLT, teachers and TAs at required sessions
- Commitment to disseminate learning to all teachers in the school (Recorded webinar)
- Develop and implement a MITA implementation plan
- Engage with programme evaluation (RAG Self-Assessment Tool)
- Contribute to and collaborate with the wider WELL MITA network