



Are you Maximising the Impact of your Teaching Assistants? FUNDING AVAILABLE

The **Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants (MITA)** team provide leading, evidence-based school improvement and professional development services. Our approach draws on our extensive, internationally-recognised research and accessible, actionable guidance. Our team, based at the Centre for Inclusive Education, UCL Institute of Education, comprises professionals with a range of experiences in research, school leadership, classroom practice, school improvement, developing and delivering professional development, and project management.

We are running the UK's largest ever trial on improving the deployment and practice of teaching assistants (TAs), in a project funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). Research indicates that the learning of disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND is disproportionately affected by ineffectively deployed and poorly trained TAs. Our intervention is designed to address persistent problems relating to TA deployment and preparation. Emerging evidence indicates that achieving this can ensure TAs thrive in their role and contribute to improved outcomes for pupils.

Our MITA intervention draws together strategic input for school leaders, training for teachers and TAs, in-school consultancy, and a wealth of high-quality supporting resources and tools. Our consultancy is based on a capacity-building model of peer-to-peer support. Since 2014, we have worked with over 300 schools. The comprehensive and integrated package of support at the heart of our EEF project is readily scalable and deliverable to schools across the UK, via 'host' hubs.

Funding to support sustainable activities across groups of schools is now available through the DfE's **Strategic School Improvement Fund**. The DfE is inviting applications from teaching schools, local authorities and multi-academy trusts who want to use evidence-based approaches to improve performance and attainment in local schools. Each application must support a minimum of four schools.

We welcome approaches from applicants interested in bringing our MITA intervention to schools in their area. We are happy to collaborate and advise on bids that will enable more schools to access our school improvement and CPD.

For further details of the Strategic School Improvement Fund, visit www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-school-improvement-fund

For more on MITA, visit www.maximisingtas.co.uk. email ioe.mita@ucl.ac.uk