

BREAKFAST WITH VITAL

Rhiannon Pounds, a dental nurse and treatment coordinator in Telford (also on *Vital's* Reader Panel), tweeted this fantastic picture not long after the winter issue of *Vital* was published with the caption 'Sunday morning *Vital*!'. Thank you to Rhiannon for letting us publish her photograph here.

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ALL TEAMS NEED A VISION OR GOAL

I read the article *Lead the way to a tranquil workplace* (*Vital* winter 2012; 42-44) with great enthusiasm and agreement.

Having experienced the daunting task of undertaking leadership of a young team five years ago I can fully support and endorse Seema's sentiment and advice.

Successful teams are created through ownership, communication, personal development and investment. I myself changed my leadership style three times in the last five years and this change coincided with Tuckman's four stages of team formation, adapting personal management styles to suit formation stages and creating team stability.

It is my belief all teams need a 'vision' or 'goal' and the leader or manager needs to be fully committed to that goal leading the team through their own example behaviour.

Now that my initial team are well established they 'manage themselves' through communication and delegation using a team management model as described in Glenys Bridges' book *Dental practice management* (see review page 11), working to their strengths whilst developing their weaknesses together.

This 'culture' has enabled me to widen my career path improving the chances of meeting my career aspirations and managing my time more effectively to be able to take on the responsibility of managing an additional practice.

I look forward to reading the following articles to come on refining team roles and can recommend Seema's sound advice to all practice managers.

Claire Deegan RDN Cert DPM
Worthing



Vital reader panel

New members of *Vital's* reader panel. Check out the feedback from our panel members in selected articles in this issue.

Rhiannon Pounds

Age: 30

Town: Wellington, Shropshire

Place of work: The Smile Works Limited

Job title: Dental Nurse and Treatment Coordinator

In dentistry: 10 years

Loves: my two cats Floss and Tepe

Hates: Salad cream



Rachael England

Age: 31

Town: Bracknell

Place of work: Warwick House Dental Surgery

Job title: Dental Hygienist

In dentistry: 16 years

Loves: my dog, Stella

Hates: tequila



Sylvie Sturrock

Age: can't remember

Town: Ealing, London

Place of work: The Neem Tree Dental Group

Job title: Dental Business Manager

In dentistry: 30 years this May (crikey Batman!)

Loves: turning dental practices into dental businesses

Hates: sequin Uggs boots



If you would like to be on the reader panel, just drop the Editor, **Kate Maynard**, an email on vitaleditorial@nature.com or write to *Vital* reader panel, BDJ Editorial, 4-6 Crinan Street, London, N1 9XW.



Snail mail: Vital Editorial, NPG, 4-6 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW

Next issue's star letter writer will win Beverly Hills Formula goodies worth £100.

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