

PCET Partners

Issue No.1 | June 2015

Welcome to PCET Partners

Welcome to the first of our new style newsletters supporting current and future partners who support and mentor our trainees on the PGCE PCET course.

This newsletter ushers in a new era in the relationship between the University and our partner organisations.

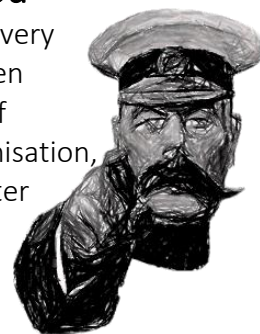
At present we have placements arranged with over 40 different educational institutions across the region, ranging from Loughborough to Hereford, from Leamington Spa to Wolverhampton. This provides us with an immense source of support and guidance, not only for trainees but also for the University itself. We would like to share some of this experience, knowledge and collaboration with you.

In order to share the wealth of ideas and understanding held across the region we will be using this newsletter to deliver information across the partnership. To ensure that this develops in to a collaborative and sharing environment we are looking to you as our partners to provide your own ideas on any number of issues that you encounter in the role of mentoring or overseeing a trainee within the PCET environment.



PCET Partners Needs You

The BCU Partnership team are very interested in developing an even stronger relationship with all of our mentors and partner organisation, and we hope that this newsletter will allow the wealth of experience and skill within the partnership to be shared.




We recognise that with your help we are able to offer our PCET trainees the very best support in completing their PGCE course.

With this in mind we are interested in finding out the topics you think are important in the mentoring role, the aspects you find most difficult, and advice you could offer fellow mentors.

These are questions that we would like to put to you, in order that you might contribute to the PCET Partners newsletter.

If you wish to ask a question, add a comment or write a short article you will find the contact details for our partnership team on the back page of the newsletter.

Inside this edition of PCET Partners:

-  Birmingham City University Partnerships Initial Mentor Training
-  Course progress – nearing the end
-  Trainees on their travels
-  Preparations for interview
-  End of placement evaluations



PCET Partners

Birmingham City University Partnerships Initial Mentor Training

We are very proud to introduce an additional form of support for new, existing and prospective Mentors within the School of Education here at BCU. This support is presented as an online learning package for you to access at your own convenience, with each section containing support materials and activities designed to help you understand or consolidate what it is to be a Mentor. Moreover, this package is free to use.

The training may be described as 'entry level' and will take around one hour to complete (in short stages if you wish), including a test at the end. Once completed (with a score of 75% or above) a certificate is released to acknowledge your completion of the training package.

The course itself is about the dispositions, attitudes and skills required of mentors. It will encourage you to reflect on what it is to be a mentor in a general sense, what knowledge, skills and attitudes mentors need and how your context relates to that.

To access the online training package click on the link below, or type the address in to your browser:
<http://goo.gl/T473TI>

Alternatively, scan the QR code to the right for immediate access.

Once you have registered with the website you can use the enrolment key below to access the training package: **BCU_Mentor_14**



Open all ● Close all ●

One - Introduction ●

We hope this training will encourage you not only to work with mentees and share your knowledge and experience with the next generation, but also help you think about your own professional development.



PCET Partners

Course Progression

Finally, for our full time students at least, it is all at an end. They have submitted their Professional Development Portfolios completed their Artefacts and for many their teaching placement is now over.

All that is left is for us to mark the ever growing piles of evidence that they have managed to collate over the course of the last year.

The same can nearly be said of our second year part-time trainees who are drawing to the end of the course, tidying up folders, crossing 'i's and dotting 't's (or is it the other way around?).

I am sure that you would join us in congratulating all of the trainees completing this year, and wish them every success in the future.

Many have already secured teaching jobs around the region, with a good number remaining (but now being paid) in their original placement setting.

As for our first year part time trainees, based both at BCU and Solihull College, there is still work to be done. For most it is the Effective Teaching, Learning and Assessment Module that is still to complete, and as term draws to an end it is understandable that many of our trainees are working all out to ensure that they are able to complete their assessment while also providing the high quality support and teaching that they have offered throughout the year.



Teacher Education for Equity and Sustainability Network (TEESNet)
Eighth Annual Conference
9th July 2015, Liverpool Hope University

**From Curriculum Makers to World Shapers:
Building Capacities of Educators for a Just and Sustainable World**

Social Media and Sustainability

In July, PCET course tutor, Stuart Mitchell will be presenting a paper at the 8th Annual Conference for the Teacher Education for Equity and Sustainability Network.

The paper was co-written with his German colleague Dr Bastian Pelka from the University of Dortmund and centres around a project that both authors were involved in to develop the use of social media in teaching and learning within the lifelong learning sector, across Europe.

The focus of the paper revolves around the concept of using social media to promote sustainable ideas and to create collaborative environments for challenge and change.

With this project in mind, please feel free to follow and contribute to the social media accounts of the BCU PCET tutors.



PCET Partners

Trainees visit the Top Barn

A group of BCU trainees, specialising in physical education and sports, were invited to the Top Barn Activity Centre by General Manager and BCU PCET Alumni, Rob Delahay, to partake in some of the activities that are offered by the centre. This allowed our trainees to consider the many different ways in which they might engage their learners outside of the classroom environment.

As Jamie Beddows, a Sports/Psychology trainee describes below, this was an invaluable experience for the group.

“Having arrived at Top Barn Activity Centre, it was immediately clear that this was a bustling hub of leisure and learning. It was amazing to see how someone who followed the same steps as I am now, has managed to use their qualification to enhance, and enrich an activity centre, into a place where learning takes place on a regular basis.

We spent the afternoon participating in the activities that the learners of this institution will undergo themselves in order to really understand what kind of benefit they will get from it; and I must say we had lots of fun, and learnt a thing or two whilst we were at it!

Furthermore, talking to one of our former peers, it was clear how broad an occupation teaching really is, highlighting the kinds of opportunity this PCET qualification from BCU can give us. The university is really opening doors for us, with educational needs ever changing, we are being well equipped to meet that need.”

(current PCET trainee - Jamie Beddows)



l-r: Stefan Sekula, Hannah Rawson, Jamie Beddows, Hollie Wright enjoying themselves on the water at the Top Barn Activity Centre. The centre offers a wide range of both land and water based outdoor adventure activities.

Further details are available at <http://topbarnactivity.co.uk/>

Micro-teach masterclass

Further to previous visits during the year we were very pleased to welcome **Vice Principal of Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form, Damian Brant** along with his colleague **Tom William** who ran a session for our full time trainees demonstrating how to undertake a successful micro-teach session in an interview situation.

This is a must for all trainees as it is often a point at which they fail to shine in the interview process. Feedback from the session was overwhelmingly positive and we thank Damian and Tom for their time and experience.

PCET Partners

Auszubildende reisen nach Deutschland

Eine Gruppe von 5 BCU PGCE PCET Auszubildende werden derzeit 375 Meilen entfernt von Birmingham. Viele von Ihnen denken, dass dies zu weit, um zur Arbeit zu reisen, aber dies ist kein gewöhnlicher Gelegenheit.

A group of 5 BCU PGCE PCET trainees are currently placed 375 miles away from Birmingham. Many of you may think that this is too far to travel to work, but this is no ordinary opportunity.

Through an Erasmus+ project proposal 5 trainees were offered the opportunity to spend a few weeks working around Essen, in the central part of the Ruhr area in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

Their time is being spent teaching in schools and colleges across the region.

We will report back on their experiences in the next edition of PCET Partners.



The Pink Cloud

In another European adventure some of our female trainees were invited to join an initiative called the “Pink Cloud” organized by Fondazione Mondo Digitale in partnership with Microsoft.

The event was held in Milan between the 19th and 21st of May in connection with EXPO 2015.

The main aim of the project is to reduce the current gender gap, encouraging young women to undertake STEM studies and offer them real opportunities to enter the work force.

For further details on the EXPO:
<http://www.expo2015.org/en/index.html>



PCET Partners

Developments in the Birmingham City Partnership Training Programme

In addition to the new online training course detailed on page 2, we are also in the process of designing a number of mentor development events for next year.

These will be offered both at the university and 'on the road' as we set out to visit a number of partner organisations to provide additional support and training.

These events will allow partners and mentors from the PCET course to mix and share experiences with other mentors from across the Primary, Secondary and Teach First programmes, as BCU hopes to encourage your professional development in a range of events.

Some of these will discuss core mentoring issues and allow you to share experiences of being a mentor with new, developing and experienced colleagues across the partnerships, while others will focus specifically on key PCET issues with the hope of assisting you to develop your skills, and to coach future mentors within your organisation.

As further details are released we will alert you to these 'free' CPD events and will look forward to your company, ideas and experience as we develop the BCU partnership.

As we mentioned on the front page of this newsletter we are aware of the contribution that you and your partner organisations offer to us, and we hope that these events will repay some of the effort that you apply to developing our trainees.

Partnership evaluation

Shortly all mentors will receive an end of course evaluation form, that will enable us to improve the quality of our courses for future trainees and the organisations in which they are placed.

Completion of 'end of course evaluation' allows you to share your thoughts and ideas on how the course operates, to highlight issues that have arisen during the last year and to share your experiences of using the new professional standards.

If you have already received this document, could we please urge you to take just a few minutes of your time to complete it and return through the email address below, or via our Partnership Administrator, Matthew Waterhouse (matthew.waterhouse@bcu.ac.uk).

Your input will help to develop an even better course for next year's trainees and hopefully, an even better experience for you.

If you have ideas for improvement that do not relate to the format of the evaluation, please do not hesitate to contact us on the address below.

PCET Partners

PCET Partners is produced by the PCET Partnerships team at Birmingham City University.

Please send any feedback, suggestions or contributions to:

pcet.partnerships@bcu.ac.uk