

PCET Partners

Issue No.6 | October 2016

Welcome to Issue #6







This is the first newsletter of the academic year, and we are happy to report a number of developments that have taken place over the summer break, including new partners, a new curriculum and new members of the PCET team.

As always we are interested in your ideas and suggestions, contributions and questions, so please do contact the partnership team via Stuart Mitchell (stuart.mitchell@bcu.ac.uk) if you have anything to ask or suggest as the year continues.

New Partners, New Courses

In June of this year the PCET team were successful in validating two brand new courses for Level 7 and Level 5 students. As part of BCUs 'Transformation of the Curriculum' agenda the PCET team were tasked with reorganising modules so that they fitted the University format. This allowed us to restructure all of our modules, rearrange the year planner and discuss the content of the course with many of our partners at special partnership events. These activity days were invaluable in allowing us to build a delivery model guided by the ideas and suggestions of the partnership as a whole.

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Along with changes in the curriculum, we are also incredibly excited to be joined by Gloucestershire College and Bournville College who began delivery of the PCET course last month.

Gloucestershire College will be delivering both part-time and full-time PGCE and Level 5 Diploma courses, while Bournville College will be delivering the Level 5 Diploma to part-time students.

This development means that as our partnership grows, so then does our opportunity to develop even greater links around the region and further afield, meaning that opportunities for mentors to share good practice, ask questions and seek support has also grown.

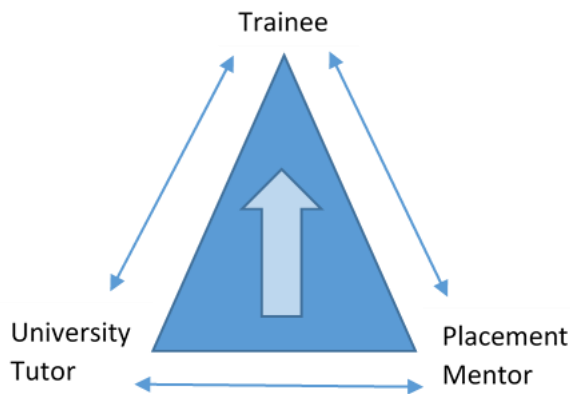
Mentor Briefings

We will be hosting a number of **Mentor Briefing** sessions over the next month which we would encourage you to attend, regardless of experience. The next session will be held on **Wednesday 2nd November at 4pm** and will be hosted at **Joseph Chamberlain College** who have kindly offered to house the session and allow those further away from the BCU City North campus an opportunity to attend a session without travelling so far. Further dates will be advertised and arrangements can be made to deliver the briefing sessions in your own organisation.

To attend this event (or others below) please contact Craig Davis (craig.davis@bcu.ac.uk). Further briefing dates have been identified as **Wednesday 14th** and **Monday 28th November**, both taking place at the Perry Barr campus.

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PDP: Outline of Responsibilities



As indicated in the diagram above, the trainee is responsible for the compiling and collation of their PDP although a dialogue with both the placement mentor and university tutor will support the progress and development of the PDP.

Indicated below are the key responsibilities for each member of the

Trainee

- Responsible for identifying SIX Professional Standards that they want observing and assessing for each formal observation.
- Responsible for writing up evidence into their PDP following each lesson observation and providing and documenting the evidence to support the grade given (where appropriate).
- Responsible for ensuring that a range of appropriate evidence is generated for the PDP (evidence not just obtained through lesson observations).
- Responsible for keeping a check list of evidence to readily identify gaps or weaker areas.

- Responsible for ensuring that the PDP is up-to-date and available for inspection at all times by the placement mentor and university tutor.
- Responsible for ensuring that AT LEAST ONE PIECE OF EVIDENCE is graded as a '1' or '2' for green Professional Standards.

Placement Mentor

- Responsible for assessing the trainee against the SIX identified Professional Standards for each formal lesson observation.
- Responsible for providing written and detailed lesson observation feedback that justifies the grades provided for each identified Professional Standard.
- Responsible for supporting the trainee in identifying ways in which evidence might be generated for 'yellow' and 'red' Professional Standards (Standards that won't necessarily be addressed during lesson observations).
- Responsible for checking trainee's progress against the Professional Standards during mentor meetings (ideally once a week) and helping the trainee to identify gaps in their evidence.

University Tutor

- Responsible for checking the progress made in the PDP at each tutorial AND each placement visit.
- Responsible for checking that the trainee has provided a range of appropriate evidence in the PDP.

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Birmingham City University Partnerships Initial Mentor Training

As the new academic year begins, we continue to promote our online training package for new, existing and prospective Mentors. We would like to take this opportunity once again to remind/introduce you to this extra level of support offered by Birmingham City University.

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**.

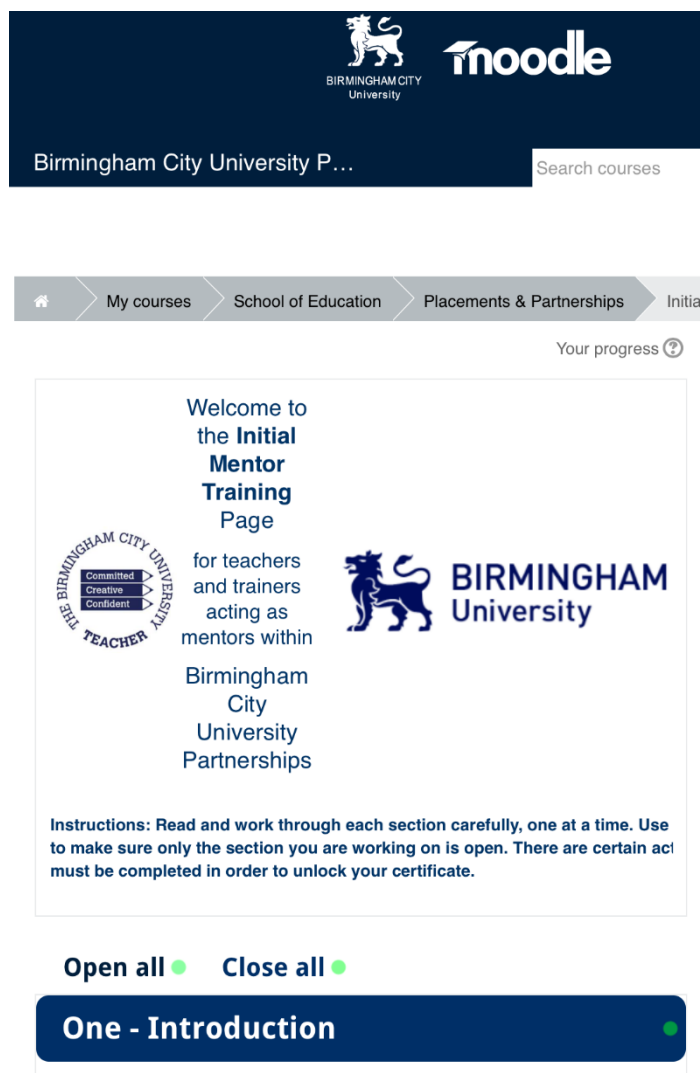
The training may be described as 'entry level' and will take around one hour to complete (in short stages if you wish), including a test at the end. Once completed (with a score of 75% or above) a certificate is released to acknowledge your completion of the training package.

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>

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



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



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Contribute to the Partnership

We are focused on developing a support network for our partner organisations and if you wish to contribute to this process by writing a short article or by offering ideas for best practice in meeting the needs of your trainee, then please contact the PCET Partnerships team via Stuart Mitchell (stuart.mitchell@bcu.ac.uk).

Events at City North

As the new course begins at the City North campus we have had the pleasure of being joined by **Selena Stewart** from the **Education and Training Foundation** to discuss the **Prevent Agenda** with our trainees. The session was a great success and will hopefully allow our trainees to better understand their role in your own organisations approach to ensuring inclusivity and safeguarding.

In the next few weeks we will also be joined by colleagues from **OCR** to discuss the ongoing changes in curriculum offer across GCSE, A-Levels and so on. Last year this session was a resounding success developing our trainees knowledge base that in turn allowed them to illustrate their knowledge of broader changes in delivery options when in an interview situation, aiding many of them to gain employment in education after the course had finished (and in some cases before).

Trainees are currently examining their own philosophies of teaching and learning and in most cases will be starting their 'Effective Teaching, Learning and Assessment' module over

the next few days (or weeks for part-time courses). This will engage learners in reflecting upon what they observe in the classroom and will hopefully include interaction with you as their mentors, aiding them in developing a better understanding of effective teaching and learning in your subject area.

BCU Teaching Team

In addition to the new course structure, our new partners and support from external colleagues we are also happy to welcome additional tutors to the BCU PCET team in the guise of Sandra Parsons, formerly of Matthew Boulton College and Anna Lines, formerly of Kidderminster College. They join Sian Davies and Marianne Fogarty, as Visiting Lecturers, alongside Jean Dyson, Kelly Davey-Nicklin (Programme Leader for Secondary Education), Stuart Mitchell and Karen McGrath, Programme Director for Post-Compulsory Education and Training.

We hope that this year brings many great opportunities for colleagues across the partnership to share their experiences and expertise. Please do pass this on to colleagues in order to develop our network of support.

PCET Partners

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

Please send any feedback, suggestions or contributions to:

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