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BCU Partnership Website: <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/education-and-social-work/partnerships-and-collaborations>

A final brief update from BCU as this strange school year draws to a close!

September Mentor Training

Mentor training for 2020 will be online and held towards the end of September. Specific dates and MS Teams links are advertised on the relevant section of the BCU Partnerships webpages (address above). In addition, all named Professional, Subject and Class Mentors on our database will be sent an invitation to the events directly by the Education Partnerships team. If your Mentor team change over the summer for any reason do please let us know so that the correct people are invited to this key meeting.

Many mentors are keen to sign up for our fully funded Level 7 Mentor training in September, details on how to enroll will be shared at these key meetings. If for any reason you are unable to attend these meetings, please contact either Jane or Amanda (email address above) for all training documentation updates and enrolment details to the module at the end of September.

Partnership Webpage updates – coming soon!

NQT and Early Career Support

In partnership with the Chartered College of Teaching BCU will host weekly discussions for NQTS and their mentors from September 3rd. It will be easy to sign up to the mailing list via a bespoke page on our Partnership Webpages. **Any school and any NQT within our region and beyond can access these sessions.** We are very excited to continue our support for beginning teachers – even in these unusual times.

Research Led Teachers for the Future

BCU will be launching the “**BCU Education Journal Magazine**” in the new academic year. It will contain a range of articles from staff, students and partners on relevant topics for teaching in our region. The aims, proposed foci and a contact email address for contributions will be uploaded to the BCU Partnership Webpages over the summer break. We are very excited about this new venture to support research informed discussion within partner school staff rooms for years to come.

Message from DfE: Expectation and deployment of ITT trainees (2 July 2020)

We strongly encourage schools to consider hosting ITT trainees. Demand for teacher training is high this year and, while it is understandable that schools will have prioritised other activity, there is a risk that insufficient training places will be available. ITT trainees have the potential to play a significant role in supporting schools.

Schools should consider how they could host ITT trainees, and discuss with relevant ITT providers how this can be done flexibly and innovatively to help meet both school and trainee needs. Taking into account the skills and capacity of the trainees in question, trainees could:

- take responsibility, with the usual mentor oversight, for small groups of pupils across or within years, adapting resources for such groups, creating online learning materials, re-planning sequences of lessons or delivering catch-up lessons
- be engaged in wider professional activity, for instance tackling pupil, family and school needs by learning about, identifying and addressing challenges such as vulnerability, mental health problems or safeguarding issues
- develop or engage in working groups to share best practice around resilience, commitment and team-working
- work in pairs or groups to co-plan, co-teach and co-assess lessons with their mentors or other trainees. Paired and group placements, where these are possible, benefit trainees, mentors and teaching staff, promoting a greater sense of team collaboration, ongoing professional learning and reductions in workload

We are very grateful to all BCU school partners who have risen to the challenge of hosting Trainee Attachments from November 2020 – we look forward to working flexibly and creatively with you!

Keep safe and enjoy a restful summer break!