

Secondary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – [amanda.brougham@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:amanda.brougham@bcu.ac.uk) Issue 19: 25 Jan 2022

Primary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – [anne.whitacre@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:anne.whitacre@bcu.ac.uk)

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

We hope that your 2022 has started well – despite the pressures of the Omicron variant!

## Updated Partnership Webpages

You will have noticed that our Partnership Webpages have been subject to a re-design in recent weeks.

The pages have been streamlined and there is now [ONE primary and early years](#) and [ONE secondary](#) page – each containing separate internal tabs for either the undergraduate or postgraduate course pages. **You can still access all resources to any course you are supporting under the 'Placement Documents' tab in each phase's page.**

We have also created a separate page for this Partnership Newsletter to make access to back copies more accessible.

## Ofsted Preparations

We communicated with all partner schools at the start of January that BCU are expecting an ITE Ofsted Inspection in coming months. We are most grateful to have received many messages of support and trainees tell us that mentors are discussing how they should prepare to meet inspectors already. If you did not receive an Ofsted briefing, please contact your phase specific Academic Partnership Lead (emails above) and we will happily send this on to you.

## SBT Placement update: Secondary Undergraduate requests

Within the next 3 years BCU will provide over 1000 new secondary teachers into the sector – our Undergraduate Biology, PE and Computer Science cohorts will comprise of approximately 200 of this number. Like many regional ITE providers we have started to be impacted by a reduced number of offers to host trainee teachers in recent months – particularly with recruitment for our Undergraduate Secondary QTS courses! **We have 38 Undergraduate trainee teachers (mainly in PE and Biology) who we have yet to secure a School Based Training placement for in the Spring Term.** All these trainee teachers have made a commitment to the teaching

profession, and we need to show our support for them by sourcing high quality regional School Based Training experiences throughout their professional training.

**We need urgent support from schools across Birmingham and some outlying areas to ensure that these young people can address future retention and recruitment locally.** We sent information outlining our specific needs to as many existing and potentially new partners that we can. Please look kindly on this request if it came into your inbox and if you can offer any support over the remainder of this academic year contact [Education.Partnerships@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Education.Partnerships@bcu.ac.uk).

## 2022/23 Secondary Placement Opportunities Packs and Expressions of Interest

With reflection on the challenges securing secondary School Based Training placements pose each year, we have reviewed our strategic approach to securing school partners for 2022/23. We are now asking partners to commit to subject offers rather than aligning their offer to any specific course so that we can look at secondary School Based Training holistically going forwards.

In the coming days we are sending the **2022/23 secondary placement requests** into schools. We are initially asking for commitments to our larger core subjects (Computer Science, English, mathematics, P.E. and science) and will then send requests for all other secondary subjects at the end of February. We are asking all new and existing secondary partners to commit to provisional offers before Easter so that we can ensure sufficiency for all secondary trainees.

We hope this new approach will provide school partners - and us - with a clearer picture of what SBT commitments are available much earlier in the preceding academic year.

## 2022/23 Primary and Early Years Placement Opportunities Packs and Expressions of Interest

Our **2022/23 primary and early years placement requests** will be circulated to new and existing partner schools immediately after half term.

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## CPD events

### Supporting BCU ITE Mentors – fully funded Master's Level module

The deadline to enrol on the **EDU7362** Master's Module (20 credits towards a 180 credit Master's qualification) for all mentors in BCU partnership schools and colleges was by **Monday 16 January 2022** and the programme launched on Tuesday 17 January 2022. **We will accept late enrolments up to 31 January for any mentor reading this newsletter – you can enrol to start the course now using this [link](#).**

### Thursday 27 January 2022: Mentoring in ITE. A presentation by Prof Rachel Lofthouse (Leeds Beckett University)

We are thrilled to share this event to launch the EDU7362 module in Coaching and Mentoring with all our partnership mentors later this week. You are warmly invited to join as we host a leading expert in the field of practice-based research into ITE mentoring at 4pm – 5pm. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

### Cancelled Peer on Peer Abuse Awareness CPD session

We are very sorry that we had to cancel the event on Tuesday, 11 January 2022 due to staff illness. We will notify you of the re-scheduled date when our colleague returns to good health.

### ECT drop-ins

We continue to host ECT drop-in sessions for any beginning teacher across the partnership – no matter who their ECF provider is. Sessions are host by BCU academics online on Wednesday evenings from 4pm-5pm. Our next sessions are:

- January 26, 2022 - Principles of Assessment
- March 2, 2022 - Questioning and Facilitating Pupil Talk

Further sessions and the link to join the sessions can be found on our Partnership Webpages [here](#).

In addition, we have had a full sequence of free online Primary ECT events shared with us by the supply agency Vision for Education – please see the separate flyer with this circulation for further details.

## Mentor Training

The second opportunity to join Secondary PGCE Mentor CPD2 is scheduled for:

- Tues, 1 February 2022 - 4.30 – 6.30pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

### Secondary Undergraduate Mentor CPD

- Year 1 Block Placement drop-in Mon, 28 March 3.45pm - 4.30pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

- Year 2 SM Induction

- Either Tues, 5 April 3.45pm – 4.30pm
- Or Thurs, 7 April 5.15pm – 6pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Primary Mentor Training is scheduled for:

- Thurs, 10 February 2022 - 3.30 – 5.00pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

## BCU Mentor Tracker

We have made a few minor updates to ensure the BCU Mentor Tracker aligns with the BCU ITE Curriculum as well as the DfE ITT Mentor Standards (2014). These audits allow us to plan our Mentor CPD strategically by informing us of the areas of strength and development needs across each phase.

We ask all partnership mentors to complete the Tracker as part of our ITE Mentoring Policy. If you are yet to complete yours please spend 5 minutes reflecting on your practice by [downloading the form](#) and returning it to either you secondary or primary Academic Lead for Partnerships (emails above)

## Strategic Partnership Committees

The next online SPC meetings are scheduled for:

**Secondary:** Thurs, 10 March 2022 - 4.30pm

**Primary:** Thurs, 27 January 2022 - 3.30pm

Links to join either meeting are available on our Partnership Webpages.

## BCU Education Journal Magazine

Please access your latest version of our in house research journal [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support and we hope the rest of your term goes well.