

Secondary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – amanda.brougham@bcu.ac.uk

Issue 21: 25 March 2022

Primary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – anne.whitacre@bcu.ac.uk

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

Welcome to the March edition of the ITE Partnership Newsletter. This month's edition includes a celebration of our partnership with Primary and Early Years providers. Your commitment and support give us many reasons to celebrate our strong primary partnerships.

PGCE and BA Primary and Early Years

Collaboration within sporting initiatives: Our Primary PGCE trainees have had been benefiting from expert Physical Education (PE) input from King Edward Grammar who came to talk about the impact of school sport as potential PE Subject Leads. Thank you, Helen for your valuable input and inspiration. Trainees have also been learning about proactive PE resources including PE at home and 'Movement snacks' promoting active classrooms as part of the Commonwealth Games initiative. **A special well done to our trainee Catherine** for successfully volunteering to be part of the 13,000 volunteers supporting the games in July 2022.

Creative collaborations: Our thanks are also extended to the Royal Ballet, Covent Garden's Royal Opera House Collaborative Dance artists who have also worked with Primary PE specialist students to deliver dance. Feedback from the session was inspiring - our trainee Harry said, 'this has really developed my confidence and appreciation of teaching dance.' Our PE specialists are also working collaboratively with Professional Studies Leadership (PSL) PE trainees to produce a 'Moving maths resource' - this resource pack which will be published and shared with schools soon.

Commitment from expert school and university partnerships – Max Jones (Newport C of E Junior School), a partnership maths subject lead, has been working with our PGCE Maths subject specialists to define the role and expertise required in this role.

Also, Martin Phillips (Historic England Heritage Schools) worked with PGCE aspirant History leads to provide training on local heritage studies. Following this input, trainees attended a subject knowledge development webinar focussing on The Birmingham Suffragettes.

Primary BA undergraduates have benefited from our partner school experts leading on school-parent partnerships, assessment data and formative assessment. **Huge thanks are extended to Rob Meadows, Louise Bradbury and Mark Whyman** for

steering the plethora of questions following their online sessions. Trainee feedback welcomed their honest and informative discussions.

BA Subject Study in English and MFL completed a story telling workshop with actor and freelance storyteller, Bharti Patel. The impact from the session has motivated trainees to consider how to use a range of talk strategies in their SBT placements. **Thank you, Bharti!**

PGCE trainees have also been given access to a BCU developed PSHE resource pack '*Dragon in my Skin*' to use in their next placement.

Please ask your trainees about these events! We strongly encourage all BCU Mentors to ask their trainees about how what they learn in university sessions can impact on their School Based Practice!

Committed collaboration – building new and existing partnerships: Thank you to our **Primary Special Schools** for welcoming our Primary SEND specialists into their settings. Our trainees have gained much from their experiences with you!

Our English as Additional Language (EAL) specialist contacts from Wolverhampton and Telford have also been engaging in PGCE maths sessions to promote the importance of language across all curriculum areas.

Our thanks are also extended to our **Primary SCITT Partners** who continue to work closely and collaboratively with our Link Tutors.

Confident beginning teachers:

Year 2s are currently completing their subject specialism modules. They have been collaborating and micro-teaching with each other to refine their skills.

The quality of academic writing and an effective reference to close-to-practice research has been recognised by our External Examiners. This feedback offers school partners the reassurance that BCU tutors and trainee teachers are utilising and using resources effectively during their training and this in turn will ensure high standards of professional development for future employers of BCU graduate teachers in primary settings!

Commitment from expert partners:

We know there are many more of you who have supported our various year groups and we thank each of you for your time and dedication to instil in our trainees the importance of the role and responsibility they are signing up to as a beginning Primary teacher!

Primary Mentoring Development: Mentor development across our primary partnership schools is developing strength and momentum and we thank you for your positive feedback on the usefulness of BCU CPD sessions - please remember all sessions are



Secondary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – amanda.brougham@bcu.ac.uk

Issue 21: 25 March 2022

Primary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – anne.whitacre@bcu.ac.uk

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

available as recordings on our Primary Partnership Website here: [Primary Mentor CPD](#).

Partners are reminded that CPD is a mandatory termly engagement for all BCU partnership mentors. We have created a series of 6 CPD sessions - so the minimum requirement for the Spring Term and Summer Term is that all mentors attend 2 (one per term). Whilst resources are openly available on the Primary Website, we do expect Lead Mentor(s) to ensure that all relevant colleagues are engaging with the resources and accessing their minimum entitlement to our high quality CPD to support their role.

Can we also use this opportunity to make a final call for our Primary BCU Mentor Tracker which should be completed by the **end of the Spring term**. If you have any queries, please contact anne.whitacre@bcu.ac.uk for additional information.

SBT Placement updates

Secondary PGCE Contrasting School Placements:

Thank you to all schools and mentors who have hosted a different trainee this half term. Trainees are being encouraged to reflect on these contrasting experiences with an open mind and in relation to their ongoing professional identity. These experiences often confirm for trainees what kind of teacher they aspire to be and in what context they want to work. Please expect them to return to their Home Schools with added gusto and confidence! We predict some rapid progress in the classroom from them all when they resume their roles after Easter.

Secondary BA/ BSc (Hons) with QTS Placements:

- Year 1 start their 2-week block placement on **25 April** - immediately after Easter. All but 1 Biology trainees have secured SBT placements
- Year 3 are all making good progress in their host schools - all are now placed in SBT schools
- Year 2 start their block placement on **9 May** - we are making good progress in securing their SBT placements but may still be circulating some further Biology requests to local partner schools!

Primary PGCE:

- trainees are currently on their 6-week contrasting placement, which concludes on 7 April.
- **SBT3 commences on 3 May**

Mentors have commented on the high quality and relevance of the Critical Incidents which are part of Review and Progress Meetings.

Primary BA (Hons) with QTS:

- Year 1s are currently in school one day a week. They start their 3 ½ week block placement on **4 May**.
- Year 2s are in school for their 7-week SBT from **25 April to 16 June**.
- Year 3s will be undertaking an additional 7-day experience in school during June to mitigate previous Covid restrictions. **If you are interested in hosting any close to QTS primary trainees during this period, please contact education.partnerships@bcu.ac.uk**

Placement Opportunities Packs 2022/23

Secondary SBT POPs have all been published and are also available to download from our [webpages here](#). Please send [Expression of Interest Forms](#) back to Education.Partnerships@bcu.ac.uk by **25 April 2022**.

Primary SBT POPs will be circulated to primary schools after the Easter break - so please keep an eye out for these! We will also have them available to download on the Primary Webpages from the week commencing **25 April 2022**.

CPD events

Local Research School Courses:

There are 3 local research schools who provide evidence-informed course to guide all regional schools. You can access their CPD offers in the links below:

- [Staffordshire Research School](#)
- [Billesley Research School](#)
- [St Matthews Research School](#)

Accelerator Fund

The DfE in partnership with the EEF are supporting specialist training and materials to support focused sessions to boost numeracy and literacy skills and help pupils catch-up in these core subjects.

Schools with high proportions of children from disadvantaged backgrounds will be prioritised for the schemes in order to support those most impacted by the disruption to education.

Schools can identify courses of interest to their improvement plans in [this brochure](#).

Supporting Recovery

Join the Staffordshire Research School for this six-module training programme, designed to support school leaders to make purposeful use of educational evidence, identify areas for development and enact strategies to improve teaching and learning.

Each 90-minute session will be tailored to address challenges and opportunities in your local region,

Secondary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – amanda.brougham@bcu.ac.uk

Issue 21: 25 March 2022

Primary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – anne.whitacre@bcu.ac.uk

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

exploring high quality teaching, targeted interventions and wider strategies as well as planning and implementing your school's approach to education recovery.

Cohort 2 starts Tues, 24 May 2022. [Book your place online here.](#)

Stop and Think

State funded primary schools in Birmingham are invited to take part in 'Stop and Think' - a study being funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) which will run in the next academic year (2022 - 2023).

What is 'Stop and Think'?

Stop and Think is a computer programme which uses quizzes and games to help pupils learn counterintuitive concepts in science and maths. In a previous study, **pupils who used the programme had higher attainment in science (+2 months progress) and in maths (+1 months progress)**. For more details use the link [information sheet](#)

Eligible schools can sign up by:

1. Emailing stopandthink@bi.team or,
2. Clicking [here](#) to book in a **15-minute phone call** to discuss the project

BCU 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:

- March 30, 2022 - Teacher Exposition/ scaffolding and modelling

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

Early Career Framework in Partnership with Capita and UOB

School leaders will be considering which ECF Partner to engage for their incoming Early Career Teachers. Let us take this opportunity to remind you that **BCU are a delivery partner for the Capita and UOB partnership**. This model has a sound online infrastructure to guide ECTs and their mentors through the ECF curriculum and sources training material from regional school partners - with authentic West Midland voices!

Our delivery model takes into consideration regional contexts and knowledge, in addition we offer ECTs the opportunity to work in bespoke small groups for ECF Clinic sessions with BCU's SEND, KS1, KS2 and Secondary expert colleagues. This allows BCU trained ECTs to develop as responsive communities of research-led practitioners. For further conversations about the BCU ECF offer please contact Rachel.Jones@bcu.ac.uk.

Every Copy Counts

A new campaign to support schools to make the most out of the Schools Printed Music Licence, which every state school in England automatically has so that they can freely photocopy and arrange printed music in school, and this is funded by the DfE. The campaign is wants to raise awareness of the benefits of the Licence for teachers, and the importance of sharing information about music usage. Contact: [Every Copy Counts](#) or Abigail D'Amore abigail.damore@gmail.com for details.

Dates for Mentor Training

Secondary PGCE Mentor CPD:

- The final drop-in session will be in the week commencing **13 June**.

Mentors are reminded that they should have attended at least two of these drop-in events over the academic year - if you have missed the previous 3 events, please contact your BCU Subject Tutor to ensure you are fully appraised of key messages.

Please make a note of Mentor CPD3 dates at the start of next term:

- **4 May** - from 3.30pm
- **9 May** - from 4.30pm

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**- 3.15pm - 4.15pm
- Or, Thurs, **7 April** - 5.15pm - 6.15pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Primary Mentor Training:

The next CPD event is:

- Thurs **7 April** - 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Please note the Monday session has been cancelled. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Strategic Partnership Committees

The next online SPC meetings are scheduled for:

Secondary: Weds, **8 June 2022** - 4.30pm

Primary: Thurs, **19 May 2022** - 3.30pm

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

Hold the date!

On the afternoon of Tuesday 5 July 2022 all lead mentors will be invited to BCU for a Mentor Celebration Event. Invitations are being prepared as I type! Primary Mentor CPD 6 on this date will be re-scheduled ...