



PCET & Secondary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – amanda.brougham@bcu.ac.uk Issue 17: 26 Nov. 2021

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>

The theme of this month's newsletter is BCU Partnership CPD opportunities. Although we have exceeded our usual 2 page of A4 limit slightly, we hope that the information shared will be of interest to a range of people in our partner schools.

Peer on Peer Abuse Awareness

Our colleague, Gray Pykitt, is hosting a CPD session for partner schools (and our trainees) at **5pm on Tuesday, 11 January, 2022** on Teams. This is an issue high on the RSHE curriculum in all phases in response to the [Ofsted report](#) published in 2020.

You are most welcome to join this event using this Teams link. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

The session will be recorded and shared on our Partnership Webpages after the event.

BCU leading bespoke INSET in schools

All BCU tutors have a subject and phase specialism and are very happy to consider requests to support in school INSET events. For example, in the past we have assisted schools during INSET days on working with Most Able Pupils and promoting a mastery curriculum.

Nic Worgan (BCU secondary English Tutor and EdD student) recently ran a session in James Brindley Special School identifying the impact of pedagogical research around oracy in the classroom. Feedback from one of the school's teachers stated, *'The Oracy training was fascinating! I was researching further postgraduate study in it after the session! We need to research oracy with our pupils in terms of their attitudes to how others speak, and our prejudices and preconceptions around speech, and how the way we communicate affects others' opinions of us and our life chances. The thinking side of it was so relevant to our pupils too. We certainly need to work on their memory and recall.'*

If you are interested in liaising with any staff at BCU to support your INSET sessions please get in touch with Amanda or Anne to liaise with BCU colleagues on your behalf.

Developing Great Drama teachers

The BCU PGCE Secondary drama team, work closely with Big Brum Theatre in Education Company as part of their provision. This not only happens on the PGCE course but also when supporting BCU drama alumni studying for the Masters in Learning and Teaching. This qualification formally accredits Early Career Drama Teachers' research and practice and is useful in promoting high quality, meaningful learning in drama.

The collaboration in this professional learning network, called [The Drama Hub](#), seeks to support drama teachers across the region, not only BCU alumni, by facilitating a space for artistic exploration of current issues within the field of drama teaching. If you would like to attend any of our events and/or meetings, please contact Christopher.Bolton@bcu.ac.uk

Computer Science teachers network

BCU coordinates the Birmingham Central Secondary Computing at School Community which meets once a term. Events, discussions and resources can be found here: <https://community.computingatschool.org.uk/>

In addition, BCU is the Academy Support Centre (ASC) for the Cisco Networking Academy> we also work alongside OCR in providing a taster course for Network Essentials.

Please contact Christine.Swan@bcu.ac.uk to find out more about your school becoming a Cisco Networking Academy and to access other Computer Science CPD opportunities

Supporting practice for Science ECTs

Last summer we worked in partnership with Bishop Challoner, the Central Midlands Science Learning Partnership and Computing Hub Lead School, to host practical science training on our City South Campus for beginning science teachers. We hosted sessions in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in July 2021. We will be continuing the partnership with further training days later in this academic year.

Find out more about regional Science and Computer Science events by contacting: C.Catto@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk.



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Widening Participation Opportunities at BCU for your pupils

Are you aware that BCU offers a comprehensive programme around a Widening Participation agenda for local schools? Our team of co-ordinators is led by Sarah Felton: Sarah.Felton@BCU.ac.uk who will happily signpost a member of her team to support any areas of interest for your teachers and pupils. You may want to consider any of the following opportunities for the year ahead?

University Experience days for your pupils

- Days for post 16 students – Interactive subject tasters hosted on the university campus, giving an insight into studying specific subjects and the careers that they lead into;
- Days for pre 16 students – A set programme designed to suit each pre 16 year group with on campus activity available;
- Support for primary schools – Introduce the idea of University to your pupils with an in school visit.

BCU Mentors for your pupils

Our Widening Participation team also run:

- Aim Higher Project – Delivering mentoring in local schools for KS4 pupils capable of studying at university and offering Year 10 Residential Summer Schools on our Curzon campus;
- Into University – Working closely with primary and secondary schools in the Kingstanding area of Birmingham, with interaction directly with pupils to help them realise ambitious aspirations.

Literacy Tutors for your pupils

Our Widening Participation team also recruit BCU student volunteers to work intensely with a local primary school to help students grow their confidence in reading.

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

We offer a tiered approach to mentor development on all BCU ITE programmes - with ongoing online core and drop in CPD events to support all mentors supporting BCU trainee teachers.

Last year we launched a fully funded **Master's Module (20 credits towards a 180 credit Master's qualification)** for all mentors in BCU partnership schools and colleges. The module serves as an induction to Level 7 study and will count as 20 credits, which could then be used in an application for Master's Study with BCU. A small number of partnership mentors completed the EDU7362 Coaching and Mentoring module last year – which is pretty extraordinary considering the challenges we were all facing in schools!

The module provides mentors with the opportunity to review their practice through a series of independent learning tasks and research in current the field of Coaching and Mentoring across all phases of education. Feedback from a successful candidate last year stated, *'Completing BCU's Mentoring and Coaching module has been a valuable experience from start to finish. Having already mentored students in the past, including while I was undertaking this course, I was keen to improve my practice and to be the best mentor I can be. The course allowed me to explore the latest theories around effective mentoring, to question my approach, and to improve my practice. It's boosted my confidence and helped me to gain new skills that I've already been able to put to good use – in particular by improving levels of communication between me and my mentee. The course was well run, and fitted around my existing commitments. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to any other practitioners who are looking to support the next generation of teachers.'*

The module has now been reviewed and updated ready to start again across the partnership in **January 2022** – with an exciting online session led by Dr Rachel Lofthouse, who is a contemporary expert in this field of practice. **Any mentor reading this newsletter can enrol to start the course now using this [link](#).**

Support for Early Career Teachers

Over the past 2 years we have held informal online ECT drop-in support for any beginning teachers across the region. These continue to be popular this year and we are always delighted to engage with alumni and other ECTs in partner schools. Partnership CPD leads and headteachers may want to signpost the full schedule and access link which can be found on our [Early Career Teacher Support Webpages](#).



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ECF in partnership with Capita

The Early Career Framework (2019) was launched as a statutory requirement for all schools in September 2021. The DfE have funded a structured programme of ongoing development through 6 National Providers. Here at BCU, we are a Delivery Partner with Capita and the ECF programme they have developed in partnership with the University of Birmingham. We have approximately 100 Early Career Teachers and mentors from a range of regional schools undertaking their ECF sessions with us as their Capita Delivery Partner this year. We launched the programme with a Conference and will take ECTs and their mentors through regular training events throughout their two years. Through Capita, our ECTs have access to a sophisticated Online Learning Platform and are able to work through ECT CPD materials consistently during the programme.

As a Delivery Partner, we offer the usual BCU USP of bespoke support in small groups, alongside opportunities to create meaningful discourses to suit the needs of all participants in our ECF events. We will also be providing our ECTs with opportunities to use their ECF study to collect credits towards a Master's qualification in the New Year. You can read more about this on our Capita specific [Early Career Teacher Support Webpages](#).

If you were unaware of the BCU involvement with the ECF and would like to consolidate your partnership further with us in 2022 you could enrol your future ECTs on the [DfE registration portal](#) - select Capita as your Provider, and, BCU as your Delivery Partner. We would love to have your working with us in 2022!

NPQs in partnership with Capita

The School of Education and Social Work is pleased to be able to share with you that it is a Delivery Partner with Capita and Leadership Learning South East (LLSE) in offering two of the relaunched National Professional Qualifications (NPQs). The two NPQs that we will be involved with are:

- **Leading Teacher Development** - for teachers who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading the development of other teachers in their school

- **Leading Teaching** - for teachers who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading teaching in a subject, year group, key stage or phase

The DfE have announced that all NPQs will be fully funded.

One of the distinctive features of what we are intending to do is to provide opportunities for colleagues to undertake some 'additionality', so that they can achieve Master Level credits.

The first BCU cohort will be in February 2022. If you are interested in completing an NPQ programme with BCU as your Delivery Partner please click on [this link](#) to register your interest. We will then contact you directly to guide your registration and enrolment. We are also looking to expand our NPQ engagement in other areas from 2022/23 – so watch this space!

Can you support our development?

Across the School of Education we have identified the development of English as an Additional Language pedagogies as a priority for our cohorts working across the region's schools. We are very aware that we have some exceptional expertise across our partnership and would be very interested in establishing a **Close to Practice EAL Research Group** in January 2022 with teachers willing to share with us models of practice which support EAL learners in their context.

We are very keen to ensure all our trainees benefit fully from this expertise – so please do consider joining us and telling us all about what practice has a tangible impact in supporting your learners. If this is an area of teaching and learning where you feel you have a specific area of expertise please complete this [short survey](#).

Strategic Partnership Committees

We continue to work with partners across both primary and secondary phases to evaluate and enhance our programmes. SPC membership, terms of reference and minutes from most recent meetings are available of the Partnership Webpages.

The next online SPC meetings are scheduled for:

Secondary: Thurs, 10.03.2022, from 16.30pm

Primary: Thurs, 22.01.2022 from 15.30pm