



PCET & Secondary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – amanda.brougham@bcu.ac.uk Issue 15: 15 Sept. 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>

Welcome back to all our partner schools after what was undoubtedly a welcome summer break! In this newsletter we are sharing with you our plans to launch our new academic year across the BCU partnership.

Urgent request regarding Tutor visits

In preparation for School Based Training (SBT) arrangements, we are asking all partners to urgently complete the attached short survey; this will ensure we have the correct contact details for all partner schools and that schools are able to share with us any ongoing Covid specific requirements ahead of tutor visits to schools.

The link for primary partners is [here](#).

The link for secondary partners is [here](#).

BCU ITE Curriculum Launch

Over the previous year we have shared with you our re-launched ITE Curriculum – with its six core themes which ensure trainees develop knowledge and skills which identify:

- A.** How to use critical enquiry and research informed practice to develop an understanding of effective teaching and learning.
- B.** How classroom practice establishes effective behaviour management using high expectations and awareness of pupils' well-being.
- C.** How knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, subject knowledge, pedagogy and how pupils learn impacts on pupils' progress and well-being.
- D.** How to plan and assess learning to ensure that all pupils make progress.
- E.** How to implement effective adaptive teaching approaches to support all learners, including SEND and EAL learners.
- F.** How to develop professional behaviour and contribute effectively to the wider life of the school.

BCU Curriculum Conference

We would like to cordially invite **all Head teachers and Lead / Professional Mentors** to our online ITE Curriculum Conference on **21 October 2021 at 3.30pm**.

We will be sending out separate invitations shortly with joining instructions – **please hold the date!**

School Based Training

Lead / Professional Mentors should be receiving confirmation of requests for BCU School Based Training (SBT) placements for the coming weeks.

In 2021/22 all BCU trainees will undertake 3 phases of SBT on their ITE courses. For undergraduate trainees these phases relate directly to their year of training. For postgraduates the phases link to the 3 terms over the academic year. You will also notice that we have reflected on models of placements following the changes we had to make to mitigate the impact of last year's pandemic and school closures.

Further details of how all placements will work are published on our Partnership pages and will be shared during Mentor CPD events this term.

New BCU Primary Partnerships Strategic Lead

Anne Whitacre has taken on the mantle of the Primary Partnership Lead. Anne has worked at BCU on our Teach First partnership over the past 7 years and is very much looking forward to getting to know a wider range of primary partners. **Please hold the date for the Primary Strategic Partnership Committee Meeting 4 November 2021 – 4pm – 5.30pm.**

Secondary Updates

All Professional Mentors on our database will have received a Professional Mentor Briefing Document for the course they deliver in partnership with BCU. This electronic booklet provides all the details relating to BCU secondary courses and outlines clearly the expectations for



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PMs when setting up their School Based Training placements.

PGCE messages - Kelly Davey Nicklin

Thank you so much to schools who offered an Initial School Engagement (ISE) week placement to some of our trainees at the start of term; this was a great opportunity for trainees to spend time in the school environment before their BCU lectures begin next week. BCU pays £50 to schools for each trainee hosted during an ISE week and further details will be emailed to identified schools on how to claim this fee.

We are delighted that our recruitment numbers on the PGCE continued to grow and recruitment has been very strong for this year's cohort.

On the secondary PGCE this year, trainees will be placed in a Home School for all of Phase 1, the first half term of Phase 2 and Phase 3. The second half term of Phase 2 will be a contrasting school placement - and where possible this will be a placement in another school already hosting trainees.

SBT placements for trainees on our core PGCE route will begin the week before October half-term - this is treated as an induction week for placements so that they can acclimatise themselves to their school before the new half-term begins. You should receive your confirmed placements this week, but we often have a need to find additional schools as circumstances in schools across the partnership can often change. If you would like to offer placements in a subject that was not originally indicated on your Expression of Interest Form, please contact Manisha.Pearce@bcu.ac.uk with an update of offers.

The impact of the pandemic has meant that some trainees from last year are also starting blocks of SBT this term and we are approaching schools directly to arrange these placements.

All Mentor CPD sessions will be held online this year and accessed via MS Teams. Links for these training sessions are available on the [BCU Secondary PGCE Partnership webpages](#). Attendance at Mentor CPD is required for all

Professional AND Subject Mentors to attend on either:

- 28 September, 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- Or, 7 October 4:30pm – 6:30pm

If you have worked with BCU trainees in previous years, you will find that there are some changes to the curriculum and assessment processes these will be comprehensively reviewed in Mentor CPD sessions.

We are looking forward to working with you this year and our trainees are very much looking forward to being in your schools.

Undergraduate messages – Grant Huddleston

Again, thank you to schools offering to work with our undergraduate trainees in Biology, Computer Science and Physical Education. We are in our third year of the BA/BSc(Hons) with QTS and are very much looking forward to our first cohort graduating at the end of this academic year.

Recruitment has grown year on year and most significantly in PE. Our Year 1 PE trainees will start their SBT after half term and will be allocated in groups to partner schools. We are always looking for further partner schools in the Birmingham area willing to take on PE students. If this is something your school could offer, please contact Martin.Sullivan@bcu.ac.uk who will supply you with an Expression of Interest Form and a Secondary UG Placement Opportunities Pack.

New secondary UG trainees are currently working on their Pen Portraits and are very much looking forward to starting their school placements.

Primary Updates

Following the retirement of Louise Khalid, the Heads of Department for Primary Education are Kate Glanville and Paul Purser.

PGCE Update – Ali Pemberton

We are grateful for your continued support. Current PGCE students are in schools during the first week of the autumn term to observe experienced colleagues settle and establish

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routes, which they will build on in their initial academic study over the remainder of Autumn Term 1.

In 2021/22 the primary PGCE cohort will complete three SBT placements - each with a particular focus to progressively develop trainees' understanding of teaching and learning in their setting. Each placement as you may be aware supports the 'teaching' time for trainees to gain experience and proficiency so that by SBT3 they commence with a 60% teaching commitment building to 80% teaching responsibility towards the end of their placement. Handbooks are being updated and will be available to school partners soon.

SBT1 – Preliminary visits 1-11 November and block placement 15 November – 3 February 2021.

Ali Pemberton, PGCE course lead, alison.pemberton@bcu.ac.uk, will be happy to speak with you further if you are interested in finding out more information about the PGCE and would like to host trainees in your school.

BA QTS messages - Emma Bloor

Thank you to all schools who supported a very different model of placement for our **Year 1s** last year, due to COVID. For the upcoming year, we are planning to build on the successes of the new model. Students will begin with day visits from 10 January 2022, and then complete block 1a of their placement from the start of February until half term. This will be modelled on the placement carried out this summer, where the students had tasks to complete, and acted in support roles within the classroom. They will then continue with day visits every Tuesday until 4 May when they will begin the second stage of their placement, taking more responsibility and developing further skills.

Year 2 students will have their placement in the summer term, with school visits starting on the 25 April 2022, and a five-week block starting on 9 May until 17 June. Our Y2 students also complete a module in the spring term - Subjects in Action - where the students take a subject option and, as part of this, deliver 4 teaching

sessions in groups to interested schools. Students will teach either: Art or music; English or Foreign Languages; Science; technology & computing; humanities or Maths. If you are interested in working with us, please contact emma.bloor@bcu.ac.uk

Year 3 students were highly successful last year. 56% of our students finished with the top grade for school experience, and 24% finished with a 1st Class degree, whilst 50% finished with a 2:1 classification. Many thanks for all your support in helping us with these fantastic results!

This year's cohort's placement begins after completing their first module on Current Issues, on the 12 October 2021, with school visits. Their seven-week SBT block begins on the 1 of November 2021.

Early Career Framework (ECF)

As we are sure you are all aware information from Accredited Providers relating to the ECF arrived very late in the summer term. BCU are a delivery partner with Capita for the ECF and our initial conference for ECF partner teachers and Mentors will be on **6 October 2021**.

If your school has opted to work with a different Accredited Provider or Capita Delivery Partner for the ECF you are still very welcome to signpost the BCU Early Career Teacher Support Drop-in sessions online. These are held online on identified Wednesday evenings between 4-5pm. Sessions will align to elements of the ECT self-study modules and will be an opportunity for Early Career Teachers to participate in discussions around elements of their practice and support their completion of self-study modules with whichever provider they are signed up for. ECTs or NQTs+1 can access each drop-in support session [here](#).

If you have not yet elected your ECF provider and would consider working in partnership with BCU as your delivery partner you can enrol via the [DfE portal here](#).

We look forward to working with you to successfully produce the next generation of teachers over 2021/22!