



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

Issue 4: April 2020

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

What a difference a few weeks make!

Professor Philip Plowden (BCU Vice Chancellor) announced that BCU buildings, apart from medical training rooms at Seacole, are now closed and the university is supporting its community to migrate to remote working as the norm.

Most key staff are still available to support students, trainees and mentors across our partnership and we have sent reassurance to all trainees that their less than ideal circumstances will be taken into consideration as they complete remaining academic modules.

Covid-19 Strategy

Of course, many trainees are also concerned about their ability to meet QTS requirements. The DfE have issued their core guidance for ITT partners, which you can review here: <https://tsccouncil.org.uk/dfepolicy-statement-regarding-covid-19-for-all-itt-partnerships/>

In response to this statement, we have considered our own strategic approach to QTS and Helen Yorke (Director of ITE) sent the following message to our trainees before the Easter break.

Our PGCE Secondary and Primary courses will continue in the absence of placements through on-line working, tutor support, seminars, workshops etc. Where schools remain open, or are delivering learning on-line, trainee teachers can participate in these activities as volunteers provided they are willing and able and the schools need their support. The 120 days in school requirement is suspended until further notice.

Bursary payments to trainee teachers who remain registered on programmes for 2019/20 will continue to be received. Similarly, student loans will continue to be paid in the normal way for trainee teachers who are on programme.

Primary PGCE trainees were informed that:

Your Initial Teacher Training course will continue and we will do our utmost to ensure that you are prepared and ready to join the school workforce as NQTs in the Autumn Term.

The majority of Primary PGCE Trainees were judged to have met the Teachers' Standards to at least the Establishing Level in School Based Training 1 and were judged to have met the Teachers' Standards to at least the Establishing Level at Progress Meeting 3 in School Based Training 2A.

Progress Meeting 4 will be organised online with PDTs and these trainees will reflect upon their progress so far and use the learning events prepared for Progress Meeting 3 to identify targets linked to the Teachers' Standards to be met by the end of the programme.

The course team will provide online support, resources, tasks, activities, workshops etc. to support trainees' developing understanding of the Teachers' Standards and further knowledge and understanding of the pedagogy and subject knowledge that will support trainees in becoming effective NQTs who will have a positive impact on learners' wellbeing and progress.

Progress Meeting 4 will take place during the week beginning 27 April 2020.

This will give all trainees time and space to complete the PSL assignment, to be submitted by 21 April 2020 and take a break from the course.

Progress Meeting 5 will take place during the week beginning 18 May 2020.

Progress Meeting 6 will take place during the week beginning 22 June 2020.



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Secondary PGCE trainees were told:

Your Initial Teacher Training course will continue and we will do our utmost to ensure that you are prepared and ready to join the school workforce as NQTs in the Autumn Term.

The majority of Secondary PGCE Trainees were judged to have met the Teachers' Standards to at least the Establishing Level in School Based Training 1 and were judged to have met the Teachers' Standards to at least the Establishing Level at the Mid-Point Review (Progress Meeting 3) in School Based Training 2A.

Progress Meeting 4 will be organised online with PDTs and these trainees will reflect upon their progress so far and use the SEPJ prepared for Progress Meeting 3 to identify targets linked to the Teachers' Standards to be met by the end of the programme.

The course team will provide online support, resources, tasks, activities, workshops etc. to support trainees' developing understanding of the Teachers' Standards and further knowledge and understanding of the pedagogy and subject knowledge that will support trainees in becoming effective NQTs who will have a positive impact on learners' wellbeing and progress.

Progress Meeting 4 will take place during the week beginning 27 April 2020.

This will give all trainees time and space to complete the Subject Pedagogy assignment, to be submitted by 20 April 2020 and take a break from the course.

Progress Meeting 5 will take place during the week beginning 18 May 2020.

Progress Meeting 6 will take place during the week beginning 22 June 2020.

Preparing for the 20/21 Academic Year

Interviews:

BCU staff continue to hold interviews for next year's PGCE and undergraduate cohort. These are being conducted using video conferencing software – and so far so good!

We are also hosting interviews for many of our School Direct partners, which is consolidating our partnerships further.

Numbers for next year's cohort continue to look very healthy.

Mentor accreditation:

We have compiled materials for the Level 7 fully funded mentor module, which we plan to run at two entry points in the next academic year.

All mentor colleagues willing to trial the materials should get in touch – the more feedback we have on the structure of the module the more confident we will be of meeting this CPD need across our partnership.

Partner Information Packs:

Information on how school partners can commit to hosting our trainees in the coming year are almost ready to be circulated. These will be circulated next week. We hope very much that partner schools can co-ordinate strategic conversations about ways in which they can continue to host BCU trainees in the coming year.

In response to feedback, we have identified a clear timeline for communication within our initial information – we very much hope this will offer you reassurance and enable you to plan effectively.

Partnership Events:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic all partnership events between now and the end of the academic year have been cancelled. We hope very much to re-ignite momentum and re-schedule all such events next year. We will share dates once they are agreed.

In the meantime, we hope you can all stay stay safe and well!