



PCET & Secondary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – amanda.brougham@bcu.ac.uk Issue 10: January 2021

Primary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – jane.lloyd@bcu.ac.uk

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

Apologies for the radio silence!

Like many of our school and college partners, the BCU Strategic Partnership team has been impacted by both personal and professional challenges during the current pandemic. We did not have the capacity to produce Partnership Newsletters or host any Strategic Partnership Committees between the end of October and today ☹️.

But here we are in a new term - with a roadmap to recovery emerging So to start this update we assure you that we are totally committed to continuing and supporting a strong and effective BCU Partnership for the benefit of beginning teachers in the region.

Thank you for hosting BCU trainees

Despite the many challenges schools and colleges have faced over the past year, you – our valued BCU partners - have managed to accommodate huge numbers of trainees to enable them to complete their training. Moreover, we have been delighted to receive the many supportive messages from schools detailing the positive contributions trainees are making.

Following the recent Government announcement that schools may not fully re-open to all pupils until 8th March at the earliest, we wanted to update you with the plans and expectations for the trainee teachers you are currently supporting.

- Your BCU student(s) will continue to support learners in classrooms and online and work closely with class teachers and with departmental colleagues.
- Formal lesson observations will be challenging to organise during this time but trainees will benefit from informal feedback, team teaching, professional discussions about the approaches to teaching and learning, particularly online teaching and learning, the progress of pupils and weekly professional discussions.
- Trainee teachers this year may not have equitable experiences in schools. All trainees

will be judged against Teachers' Standards in the context in which they are working alongside teachers in school. **The Progress Assessments, made at Progress Meetings will be made as 'best fit' judgements and Teachers' Standards should be considered as a whole rather than a series of bullet points to be met.**

BCU teams will of course continue to support mentors and class teachers closely through progress meetings and professional discussions.

Partnership Recognition Certificates

You will shortly be receiving a Certificate of Recognition for your ongoing partnership from our Head of School and the Head of ITE. This is a small token of thanks for all you do to support BCU trainees. We look forward to seeing these adorning your foyers when we are able to visit you again.

Covid secure

BCU Covid policies have ensured that all risks to trainees and partner schools have been mitigated. BCU tutors are not visiting any schools and we have adapted to online operations to support trainees and mentors during school experience. We have moved all university teaching online and plan to ensure that when students and staff return to campus they will undertake regular lateral flow testing to ensure that internal Track and Trace systems maintain the safety of all our communities.

Recruitment Update

We are conducting all recruitment online. Prospective trainees are applying through UCAS and the new DfE Apply systems.

There have been cuts to bursary payments and the popular Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) for incoming trainees – with bursaries being offered for secondary maths, physics, chemistry, computing, classics, languages and biology only going forwards and a greatly reduced support for trainees attending SKEs. We are cognisant of these changes when recruiting trainees, but are hopeful that we will sustain

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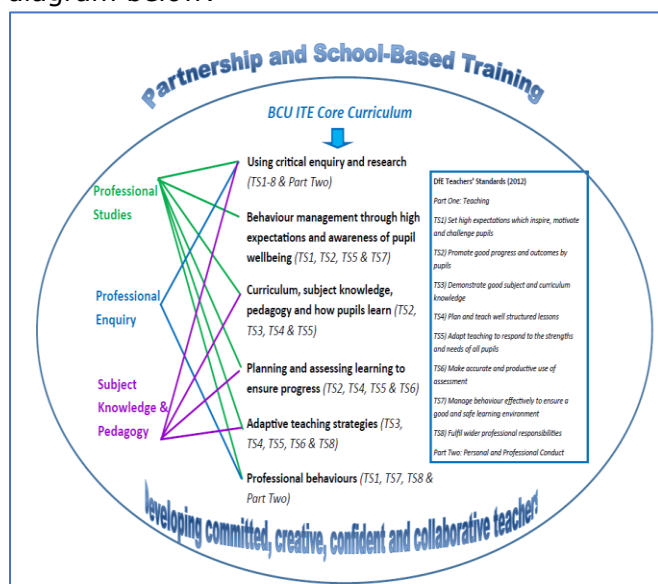
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strong cohorts going forwards with in-house support for subject development. We will be discussing our recruitment processes with members of our Strategic Partnership Committees later this term.

An ITT Curriculum for the future

The DfE are strategically reviewing teacher training following the launch of the ITT Core Curriculum Framework in line with the Early Career Framework last year.

This new direction has led us to reconsider the content of our BCU curriculum offers in line with these new training expectations. We have shared the 6 BCU Core Curriculum Priorities over this academic year and our trainees are becoming familiar with them through our taught sessions and their placement Progress Journals. All BCU teacher training phases are committed to these 6 BCU Core Curriculum Areas – which combine all aspects of the Teachers' Standards, as identified for one of our programmes in the diagram below:



In addition, phases and subjects will be weaving into the BCU Core Curriculum relevant priorities within their fields of expertise.

We are now seeking a range of partners to consult and shape these plans so they create the best curriculum for all stakeholders going forwards. We will be asking for volunteers through our Strategic Partnership Committees initially, but if anyone else would like to be

involved please contact Amanda Brougham directly.

Future School-Based Placements

Secondary Undergraduate – all placements will now be scheduled for after May 2021. We are still seeking placements in Biology and PE – if your school can offer these please contact: martin.sullivan@bcu.ac.uk

Primary Undergraduate

Year 1 placement – 24 May – 28 May 2021 and 7 June – 18 June 2021.

Year 2 placement – preliminary visits 20 – 30 April 2021 and block placement 4 May- 18 June 2021.

Secondary and Primary PGCE - trainees will remain attached to their schools for the remainder of this academic year. There may be opportunities for enrichment placements in the summer term if restrictions are eased.

We are currently working on the 2021/22 School Placement Packs across all phases and will send a further newsletter in a few weeks outlining specific plans and key dates for partner commitments.

Strategic Partnership Committees - see below scheduled meetings for all phases within the partnership next half term. Please make a note for your diaries:

PCET

Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 2pm by invitation.

PGCE Secondary

Wednesday 24 February 2021: 4.30pm by invitation.

Undergraduate Secondary

Thursday March 4th at 2pm – please request an invite by email to martin.sullivan@bcu.ac.uk.

We would like input from schools who can support us in securing further undergraduate placements in PE, Biology or Computer Science

Primary

Thursday 18 March 2021 at 3.45 pm by invitation.