

Secondary Academic Lead for ITE Partnerships – [amanda.brougham@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:amanda.brougham@bcu.ac.uk)

Issue 20: 16 February 2022

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

As we draw to the close of another half term, we are starting this newsletter with some great reasons to be celebrate your BCU ITE Partnership!

## Secondary trainees living up to the BCU teacher professional characteristics

**Undergraduate success:** Our first cohort of BA/BSc (Hons) with QTS trainees will graduate this summer. We are delighted to hear that many are starting to secure their first substantive roles within the sector. Mia, in PE, has secured her first post in St John Wall School, Handsworth, where she completed 2 of her 3 School Based training Placements. Mia came to BCU from Wales, aged 18, has dealt with personal challenges relating to Covid during her course, but has received nothing but praise from both her academic tutors and school mentors. **You are an outstanding ambassador for the BCU secondary programme Mia!**

**Confident collaboration:** Salahadin, one of our PGCE maths trainees in Kings Heath Boys' School, was recently praised in the school's Inclusion Newsletter for stepping in to deliver a lesson with the 'upmost professionalism' for a supply teacher who was not a maths specialist. **Thank you Salahadin!**

**Creative collaboration:** PGCE Art and Design trainee Josh took part in a recent Staff Wellbeing Day at their Phase 2A placement school, Leasowes High School. Josh delivered a "Well-being through ceramics" session in which the participants manipulated clay and completed ceramic vessels in a calm, contemplative atmosphere. The teachers who took part reported finding the session very rewarding. **Bravo Josh!**

**Committed collaboration:** Jon Morgan, music SM at The Link Academy where they have just been through an Ofsted inspection, emailed to tell us that our PGCE music trainee, Joe, 'has been such a great support with recent inspection!' **Well done Joe!**

## CPD events / opportunities

### 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 2, 2022 - Questioning and Facilitating Pupil Talk

- 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](#).

### Peer on Peer Abuse Awareness CPD session

We are pleased to confirm the **re-scheduled date** for this online CPD event led by our colleague Gary Pykitt, author of *Shifting Sands: Contemporary Issues in Primary Education* (2019).

Date and time: **Tuesday, 8 March - 4-5pm**

Link to join: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

### The Precious Trust

Karen McGrath, BCU's Head of Secondary and Post 16, is a trustee with The Precious Trust, a charitable organisation founded in memory of murdered Aston teenager Letitia Shakespeare. The charity runs a programme of workshops for girls and young women aged between 11 and 25 years who are at risk of youth violence, gang involvement, and criminal and sexual exploitation. **The Precious Choices Education Programme** aims to equip females with key skills and knowledge, challenge harmful behaviours and attitudes, and enable individuals to begin to cope and recover from previous wounding situations and relationships. The Precious Trust is currently offering FREE sessions to schools, youth groups, residential homes and charities. If this is something you may be interested in for your students, you can find out more about how to apply for workshops [here](#).

### Volunteer dance teacher

We have a post 16 trainee teacher offering her time as a volunteer dance teacher to any interested partner schools **in the Wolverhampton area**. She has a Level 3 BTEC qualification in dance with distinctions and BCU DBS clearance. She is available to assist in any after school dance or performance sessions. Please contact her directly if you are interested in her support: [Sophie.Thorpe-Gogerty@mail.bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Sophie.Thorpe-Gogerty@mail.bcu.ac.uk).

## 2022/23 Secondary School Based Training Placement Opportunities Packs and Expressions of Interest

The **2022/23 Secondary Placements Request 1** has been circulated (over email and hard copies) to all regional schools and is available [here](#) and on the Secondary Partnership Webpages. Request 1 asks for schools to commit to host trainees in our larger core subjects (Computer Science, English, mathematics, P.E. and science) using this [Expression of Interest](#) form. Request 2 for all other secondary subjects will be emailed to schools after half term and also available on our Secondary Partnership Webpage.



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We are asking all new and existing secondary partners to commit to all provisional offers before Easter so that we can ensure sufficiency for incoming BCU secondary trainees. We hope this new approach will provide school partners - and us - with a clearer picture of what SBT commitments are available much earlier in the preceding academic year.

## 2022/23 Primary and Early Years Placement Opportunities Packs and Expressions of Interest

Our 2022/23 primary and early years placement requests will be circulated to new and existing partner schools immediately after half term.

## SBT Placement updates

Secondary PGCE Contrasting School Placements start immediately after half term.

Secondary BA/ BSC (Hons) Year 1 and Year 3 trainees are on SBT currently.

Primary PGCE SBT 2 starts immediately after half term.

Primary BA The Year 1 complete their first three week block this week, having carried out observations and tasks. They have supported pupils in class and begun to develop the foundations required for teaching on their three-week block in the summer. They will continue to go into school every Tuesday from now until then, to continue to develop their knowledge and skills.

## Secondary Undergraduate requests:

We are still seeking Year 1 and Year 2 School Based Training Placements for PE and Biology trainees in the region. These placements could be combined as both block placements occur at different times in the summer term. Please consider whether your PE and Science departments you offer any support over the remainder of this academic year - and if so contact [Education.Partnerships@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Education.Partnerships@bcu.ac.uk).

## 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](mailto:Rachel.Jones@bcu.ac.uk).

## Mentor Training

Secondary PGCE Mentor CPD2 was attended by just under 50% of mentors from across the partnership. This drop in attendance was expected considering the challenges all schools are facing with ongoing staff absences due to Covid infections. **Nevertheless, termly CPD events are identified as a core requirement for all partnership PGCE mentors;** therefore, PGCE Professional Mentors should now ensure that any colleagues unable to join the live event access the recording and PDF materials on the Mentor CPD section of the Secondary Partnership Webpage. This key session reviewed ways to set high leverage targets, ways to link BCU content to SBT and reviewed the logistics for contrasting school SBT.

The next PGCE Subject Mentor Drop-In (session 3) is scheduled for the week commencing 7 March 2022. **Mentors are reminded that they should attend at least two of these events over the academic year.**

### 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- 3.45pm - 4.30pm
- Or, Thurs, 7 April - 5.15pm - 6pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Primary Mentor Training is scheduled for:

- Either Thurs 7 April - 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- Or, Mon, 11 April 2022 - 3.30pm-4.30pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

## Strategic Partnership Committees

The next online SPC meetings are scheduled for:

**Secondary:** Thurs, 10 March 2022 - 4.30pm

**Primary:** Thurs, 24 March 2022 - 3.30pm

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

Thank you for your continued support and have a restful half term break.