



School of Education

PGCE Partnership Newsletter

Primary PGCE Partnership Management Group

As we begin the new academic year with a new cohort of Primary PGCE student teachers who we will be training together, we have invited all partnership heads to join our Partnership Management Group. This year we are refocusing the role of this group so that it is more in line with a school's governing body.

A focus of each meeting will be to use updated information and data to review the progress towards achieving the action points identified in the Partnership Improvement Plan. This will enable students to be at the highest possible starting level when they become NQTs in your schools.

The group meets once a term to work collaboratively with us to enhance the quality of the Primary PGCE programme. We are already achieving outstanding results but we know that with the help of skilled school colleagues we can improve still further.

All meetings take place at College Court, Knighton Road, Leicester LE2 3UF.

We are delighted that a number of new school colleagues have this year joined our well-established and respected group. Should you wish to find out more please contact Dr Neil Burton, our Partnership Manager, or Sue Davis, Head of Primary PGCE.



I've just met Nicky Morgan!

After securing a job at Limehurst Academy in Loughborough I have had some fantastic opportunities whilst teaching Citizenship and Personal Development. Students have been really involved and engaged in key Citizenship issues

and alongside our lessons we have had some pretty exciting visitors! As part of the 'Send my Friend to School' campaign students raised awareness of the 58 million children that do not have access to education despite World Leaders promising that this would not be the case in 2015. The Millennium Development Goals had not been met and students at Limehurst were not happy about this! They invited Nicky Morgan, our local MP and Education Secretary into school to get their voices heard. They wanted her to discuss the issue at Parliament and for World Leaders to keep their promises. Nicky agreed to come in and Year 9 put on a fantastic assembly where they read speeches, rapped and held a visual to get their message across. Nicky engaged with the students and listened to their message. Later we got a letter from Nicky saying that she had taken the message to Parliament and she told us about all the things that the UK are doing to try and help people round the world and that they are aware that more needs to be done. She also mentioned our work to Michelle Obama; showing my students that they are powerful active citizens who can get their voices heard!

Exploring the Science of Everyday Objects

Have you ever thought about which cup is best for keeping your coffee hot, or which kinds of shopping bags are the strongest? Everyday objects can be an engaging source of scientific inquiries which are accessible to all pupils. As part of our involvement with SUSTAIN, a European project concerned with linking Science Education with Education for Sustainable Development, the School of Education will be hosting a European workshop for teachers and teacher educators 24th – 26th November 2015. The focus will be an Inquiry-based approach for pupils in KS 1 – 3, exploring the properties and the life-stories of everyday objects. The programme will include Keynote presentations, practical sessions and examples of classroom activities, based on materials which are being developed within the SUSTAIN project.

Attendance is free for day participants, who may come for part or all of the 3 day workshop. For further information see www.everydayobjects.uk or email educationcpd@le.ac.uk

Citizenship at Limehurst Academy is very much about students having the chance to learn about global issues and to see what it is that they can do in order to make themselves and the world around them better. So far we've had contact with a charity in South Africa and ran a table tennis tournament raising money for them, we've debated pretty much everything there is to debate and kept on top of current affairs. We've also held mock elections, turned the classroom in to a courtroom and even started tweeting about our successes (you can follow us @LimehurstCit)! After my NQT year I was given the responsibility of Head of Citizenship and I have started to run a GCSE Citizenship class. We have plans to visit Parliament and the Magistrates Court as well as learning about our Rights and Responsibilities and seeing what we can do to ensure that everyone has the Human Rights that they deserve. Margaret Mead said: 'never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has'. This along with Ghandi's; 'be the change you wish to see in the world' are our mottos and we are small school in Loughborough doing our bit. It really is a fantastic job and an amazing opportunity to see students realise their power and reach their full potential. The University of Leicester offered me a great platform to become a qualified teacher and it is proving to be a great career so far!

Ellie Bloodworth



A personal view of the Brooke Weston ITT/NQT conference

Brooke Weston teacher and University of Leicester PGCE English alumnus, Matt Rodger led a workshop at their recent ITT/NQT conference on action research methods. Matt, who teaches English, said: 'The day was focused on sharing best practice for action research in the classroom and there were workshops ranging from differentiation to research-led projects carried out in schools.'

'I facilitated a workshop getting people to think about problems that they faced in the classroom, coming up with potential

solutions, then sharing across departments to see how they could transfer those across subject areas

'The conference was very beneficial as it gave the ITTs the opportunity to reflect on the practice they had seen already, things that they might like to do, potential solutions to problems and how those could become a piece of action research. As teachers we are constantly evaluating what we do as best practice all the time and reflecting on what works and what doesn't, which is a form of research in itself.

What I was hoping to encourage was that by reading a bit of literary journalism or educational research or emailing across the Trust and sharing ideas then that is action research at grass roots level.

The conference was great for building contacts as well as there were so many people from different departments and other schools. Often because we are so driven by day-to-day demands we don't often have time out to reflect on what we are doing well and how we can pass those skills on to others in the profession. As I have just finished my NQT year it was also a chance for me to pass on advice to the ITTs and allay some of their worries about the years ahead.'

Primary with Mathematics

This year we are delighted to have 22 students following the new Primary with Mathematics route. These students are taking the full PGCE course alongside the other students but will, in addition, be focusing particularly on mathematics. We have high hopes for these students in line with this statement from the Association of Mathematics Education Teachers and National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics:

Primary mathematics specialism is intended to provide a route for trainee primary teachers who have a specific interest in mathematics, and are interested in developing this in their training. Following a mathematics specialism path should lead to primary generalist teachers who have

begun to develop a specialism in primary mathematics and have a desire to continue the development as their career progresses. With continued professional development this might lead to subject leadership and/or specialist teaching of mathematics within a primary setting. Evidence from high performing countries suggests that specialist mathematics teachers at primary level are a key element to increased attainment in mathematics. The introduction of a specialism route provides a stepping stone towards increased specialist teaching of mathematics at primary level in the future.

The Primary with Mathematics students will have some additional sessions and tasks to support them to develop an enhanced level of awareness and depth in their knowledge

and understanding of the teaching and learning of primary mathematics. They will develop an understanding of the role of the subject leader for mathematics and the whole school mathematics curriculum that will equip them for building on their specialism as they go into their NQT year.

These students will be placed as far as possible in schools who have an identified expert teacher of mathematics and we are aiming for all to have an expert teacher of mathematics as a mentor for at least one placement. Please contact us if you would like to become involved by offering placements for maths specialists.

Alison Godfrey
ag384@leicester.ac.uk



Feedback from one of our students:

“ My phase B school has been absolutely delightful in terms of the support it has given me. I really feel like Limehurst Academy gave me the space to grow as a teacher and make mistakes and then help to overcome them and improve my practice.

Feedback from the University of Leicester:

“ Since NCLP became involved in School Direct I have always been impressed by the commitment, professionalism and support the whole NCLP team have shown for student teachers from the minute they receive an application through to the first post within the profession.

School Direct Teacher Training in Loughborough

We are delighted that our first cohort of School Direct students successfully completed their PGCE in partnership with ourselves and the University of Leicester. We recently held a Presentation ceremony here at Limehurst and they received a certificate, gift and “NQT Survival Kit”. It was a joyous occasion and we are very proud of their achievements. They also met the 2016/17 students who will be training with the partnership in September as well as representatives from both Leicester and Loughborough Universities. schooldirect@limehurst.org.uk

Ofsted Update

Following the summer inspection of the PGCE courses and students in their placement schools, Ofsted will be returning this term to focus on visiting NQTs to see how that have bedded down into their teaching posts. As before, we will be informed of the visit the Thursday before inspection teams go into schools on the Monday and Tuesday. If your school has an NQT, please ensure that you have accessed their ‘Induction Pack’ and reviewed their Induction targets with them.

Older teachers project

Researchers at the Universities of Leicester and Nottingham seek teachers aged 50 or over who are willing to take part in life history interviews, focussing on their experiences of change in Education over the last 30 years.

If you are 50 or over, still teaching 50% or more of a timetable, and willing to be interviewed we would be delighted to hear from you.

For more information, please email Joan Smith on jms32@le.ac.uk



New PGCE tutors

Steph Heimer, a Chartered Psychologist within the Division for Teachers and Researchers in Psychology, has 19 years experience of teaching Psychology within

a Sixth Form setting and acting in a pastoral capacity as a personal tutor. She recently left the Sixth Form college setting to expand her work in the Higher Education sector, having worked with the Open University since 2003 and currently tutoring/lecturing on level 1 & level 2 Psychology and Childhood Studies undergraduate modules.

She is excited to be the new PGCE Associate Social Science tutor, and is looking forward to the year ahead.

PGCE Destinations

Secondary:

93% of the 14-15 students have a teaching post
78% of those are in a partnership school
80% are in the East Midlands

Primary:

94% of the 14-15 students have a teaching post
43% of those are in a partnership school
75% are in the East Midlands

NQT Conference

We will be holding our 3rd Annual NQT Conference on Jan 13, 2016. All ex-University of Leicester PGCE students and all NQTs in Partnership schools are welcome to attend. With workshops and talks throughout the day it is again expected to be a highly popular event with Matthew Burton (Educating Yorkshire) providing the keynote address. The 'early bird' price is £85 per delegate (all refreshments included) – please contact Educationcpd@le.ac.uk to book your place.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 25th September the Primary and Secondary PGCEs took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. Students and Staff participated in a bake off competition – with prizes and certificates awarded to those judged to

be the best, based on appearance and taste. Following this the cakes were sold in the coffee morning and a fabulous total of almost £400 was raised. Thanks go to all who participated and to Sarah Adams (Primary PGCE Tutor) for organising the event.

Didn't we do well!

Primary PGCE student comments

"It has been a brilliant experience!"

"I have received a great level of support this year and feel that this is a great strength of the course. I have also learned a lot from the wider professional context sessions and broader curriculum days."

"It is an extremely supportive environment where tutors are always available to provide support and guidance when needed. Whenever I have had any problems, they have been dealt with quickly and sensitively."

"The quality of the course is exceptional and it has such a good reputation. I enjoyed being here and feel proud to be part of the University of Leicester."

"Teaching in Leicester will prepare anybody for any situation."

"I would recommend the School Direct course as the placements were excellent."

"Fantastic course to prepare you to teach in the classroom, ideas to model, differentiate, manage behaviour, ideas for engaging lessons and progress children, really supportive."

Secondary PGCE student comments

"Fantastic cotutor. Couldn't have done it without you."

"Amazing support and felt so welcomed in the department. Even been asked to attend a leaving party."

"Very supportive throughout, and a great school to complete a placement at."

Primary PGCE mentor comments

"We've managed to achieve a seamless transition between myself and the student. Pupils have been enthused and motivated by CH's creative approaches and the standard of their work has remained high."

"My student was so good; effectively the class had two teachers."

"She helped to instil a love of learning in the children and they were excited to see what she had prepared each day."

"She brought enthusiasm and new ideas to the class and she enabled me to observe children and reflect on my own practice - it also gave me time to work on reports and other whole school things!"

Secondary PGCE co-tutor comments

"The students have had a strong hand on the tiller and the fact that they have viewed Emma as a skilled teacher from another school rather than a student teacher emphasises how much of an impact that she has had."

"The pupils enjoyed having a new, young teacher who had different ideas and tried new things to support their learning."

"Made me think about my teaching!"

"Causes me to reflect on my practice. I have observed innovative practice."

For more information

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