



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

School of Education Partnership News

Spring 2019



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

Welcome to our spring newsletter. In this edition you'll find information about secondary MFL students' visit to The Ashby School for a great day on A-level teaching and the Space Day held for our scientists. We also bring you news about the latest events to have taken place within the School of Education, including our annual NQT Conference, and highlights of our professional development courses.

Over the last few months there have also been some organisational changes in the School of Education. I have taken over as the Interim Head of School and Prof. Chris Wilkins is the Acting Director of ITE.

Now that our PGCE students are well into their stride, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to our partners for their continuing willingness to support the next generation of teachers. The quality of experience students have in school during their training year makes a fundamental difference to their learning and to their growing confidence and skills as a teacher.

As always, we'd love to receive your ideas for future articles. We're really keen to share some of the great practice taking place across the partnership – so do let us know if you have something that you're particularly proud of or would like to engage others in.

You can contact us by email at pgcepartnership@le.ac.uk or by telephone on 0116 252 3771. We look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Prof. Wasyl Cajkler,
Interim Head School of Education.

Primary NQT Conference – 23 January 2019

Our annual NQT conference was held at Stamford Court on 23rd January and was another very successful event. We were pleased to welcome back Dave Godfrey to do his Mastery in Mathematics session and Andy Craven-Griffiths to deliver his Performance Poetry and Creative Writing session. Both sessions were enjoyable, interesting and gave the NQTs lots of practical ideas to take back to their classrooms.

We also had workshops on Emotional Regulation, Sensory Issues in the Classroom and Being a Teacher of Reading. It is always lovely to see our NQTs and to hear about how they are getting on but also to meet NQTs from other institutions and hear them share their experiences. The comments we received reflected the enthusiasm and engagement of the NQTs who attended.

"Absolutely inspiring just at the point of the year that I needed it! Going back with loads of new ideas"

"The conference was exactly what I needed at this point in my NQT year. The workshops were really relevant. I would recommend the conference to any NQT"

"The day was fantastic. It has really inspired me and has given me a boost to really push myself for the rest of the year"

"It was great to meet with other NQTs and share ideas, hints and tips to enhance our teaching practice".

Thank you to all of those who attended the day, ran workshops or came along to catch up with and offer support to the NQTs. If you have any ideas about future NQT events that we could run, or facilitate, please let us know. Likewise, if you feel that you have a member of staff who would be able to run a particular workshop at future NQT events, please do get in touch.



Joe Dale Day

In early February we were lucky to welcome Joe Dale, Independent MFL and Technology Consultant, to the University of Leicester. Joe led a session for MFL PGCE Students and Leicester SCITT students as well as teachers from around Leicestershire on how we can use more technology in the languages classroom to improve students' speaking and listening skills.

Throughout the day we learnt how to create gif and memes using apps such as IMGplay and Picsay and were introduced to Mentimeter, a useful website for creating interactive presentations.



Joe also introduced us to the #MFLTwitterati podcast and community, a discussion and support platform for technologically savvy teachers. We look forward to applying all we've learnt to our future teaching practice.

Emma Pye, MFL PGCE Student

Congratulations to Dr Jon Heywood!

We are very pleased to confirm that Jon Heywood (seen below with colleagues Rita Denton and Jenny Bosworth) graduated with a Doctorate in Education in January.



Dr Heywood's thesis focussed on Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK), a theoretical lens through which to foster reflection and dialogue regarding the practice of teaching.

He developed a number of tools to support a structured approach to professional development, with demonstrable impact in terms of teaching practice and pupil outcomes. His study demonstrates the potential to operationalise TPACK within a UK setting and offers a toolkit of resources to support consideration of the pedagogical affordance of technology by teachers for wider scrutiny, use and development.

We will shortly be approaching schools to see if they are able to offer placements for our Secondary and Primary PGCE students for 2019-20. If your school would like to be, or continue to be, a partner school helping us train the region's future teachers do get in touch via pgcepartnership@le.ac.uk

MFL PGCE Students Visit The Ashby School

The MFL PGCE group went to The Ashby School for a day, in February, to focus on A level teaching.

Smaller groups were given the opportunity to team teach year 12 and 13 classes: one on the theme of literature and another on the theme of the Second World War.

Fiona McCafferty showed us their state-of-the-art interactive hub – an interactive room full of technology that can be used to create an atmospheric teaching environment. She explained the multitude of ways that it could be used in GCSE as well as post-16. Afterwards, we had the chance to speak to current post 16 students, gaining their perspective on how they like to learn and their preferences for learning at A level and we were able to share our experiences of where languages can take you.

Samantha Lucien took us through how she teaches A level literature and film, generously sharing her resources and creative ideas for us to use when we are able to.

Many thanks to Nick Fitzpatrick for organising the day for us and thank you to the post 16 students who showed us around the school.

Hazel Fisher, MFL PGCE Student



Applications Welcome for our Master of Education Programme 2019-20

Applications are open for our Master of Education programme commencing October 2019

The M. Ed is designed for qualified teachers and other educational professionals working in a range of contexts and age phases. The programme is offered as a two or three year programme.

The M. Ed itself is now firmly established. Our first cohort of teachers and educators, who began in October 2018, work across the Midlands. They have already designed and carried out small scale research on key topics which will inform policy and practice in their institutions. These include independent learning skills, working memory, flipped learning, progress in A-level Mathematics, use of role play in foundation stage writing development and visual aids for EAL learners.

We are offering a choice of two **new** 30 credit modules for October. You would choose one of these (subject to availability):

- **Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools** (from Tues 29th October)
Module Tutor: Sarah Adams
- **Mentoring, Coaching and Leadership** (from Weds 30th October)
Module Tutors: Fay Baldry and Jenny Bosworth

Our other modules are:

Reflective Practice, a 30 credit module for those enrolling on the three year programme with no Masters credits (from Weds 30th October).

Practitioner Research Methods (from Weds 26th Feb 2020), a 30 credit compulsory module leading to 60 credit Dissertation module in Year Two or Three of the programme.

Each module includes six face-to face sessions (4 weekdays from 4.00 to 6.30pm and 2 Saturdays from 9.30 to 1.30pm) and additional tutorials.

A complete Masters programme totals 180 credits. If you have 60 credits from a PGCE, you can use them towards this degree, provided they were completed in the last 5 years. If you will have 90 credits from a University of Leicester PGCE completed in 2019 you will also be able to use these.

Your school may be able to contribute to your course fees, and if you are a Leicester graduate there are discounts available.

To find out more about making an application or the content and structure of the modules please consult <https://le.ac.uk/courses/master-of-education-med/2019>

For other information please contact us at **M.Ed@le.ac.uk**

Dr Sue Dymoke
M. Ed Programme Director

Space Day for Secondary PGCE Students

During their second phase back in university, we try to give our scientists the opportunity to build on their first placement by looking at examples of outstanding practice. One of these sessions was our 'Space Day' run by Judith Green from the National Space Centre in Leicester and sponsored by the Ogden Trust. It was a whole day of great ideas for teaching from launching rockets, to modelling the solar system, to igniting ethanol to model rocket power.

As one student stated "I went from being a bit of a space novice and rather worried about how to teach astronomy, to really looking forward to teaching it and already wondering how soon I'll be able to plan a trip to the Space Centre."

Another student rated the day as excellent and said she had lots of practical ideas to take away and try out herself. She said that "the enthusiasm of the presenter was infectious."



PGCE Staffing Update

Fiona Curtis worked on the Primary PGCE course as an English and Progress Tutor last year and returned to school in the Autumn term. We are pleased to say that she has returned to the University on a permanent basis and will be continuing to teach on the English Strand of the Course.

Dr Liz Hewitt has also returned to the University after taking a year out to go back into school. She has returned to lead the Academic Strand on the Primary PGCE and to teach on the Science Strand, as well as continuing to teach Year 4, two days a week in school.

As you may have heard, Belinda D'sa retired from the University after 44 years of service. She was always a friendly, knowledgeable and professional face to staff, students and school colleagues and I'm sure many of you who are ex-students will remember her always being helpful and supportive. She will be missed by us all.

Allen Clarke has been appointed to support Gurminder Soor with the Primary PGCE and SCITT administration. We welcome Allen to the department.

We are sad to lose Jo Griffiths from the secondary team. Jo has led on our Humanities and Geography courses in recent years and we wish her well as she leaves us to take up a post at De Montfort University where she will develop masters teaching.

Professional Development and Assessment Only

We have some exciting courses coming up this term. Our primary programme includes sessions on maths and science with networking sessions for both. We are again running the extremely successful CLEAPSS Courses for those in Primary and Secondary teaching and those supporting that teaching as science technicians.

For more information on any of our courses, please see:

<https://le.ac.uk/education/study/cpd>



Alongside our PGCE routes, we also offer the 'Assessment Only route to QTS' to our Partnership Schools. If you have a teacher employed by your school who has been teaching for more than two years and does not have QTS, they may be eligible for this particular route. If you would like to enquire as to whether a member of your staff is eligible, please do contact the PGCE office for the appropriate phase (prpgce@le.ac.uk/secpge@le.ac.uk).

Mental Health Conference – Save the Date!

Mental Health in Schools Conference on Wednesday 5th June 2019

Supporting professionals to talk about mental health issues experienced by children and young people.

We are proud to announce that the School of Education (University of Leicester) will be hosting its first **Mental Health in Schools Conference on Wednesday 5th June 2019**. The aim of the conference is to support professionals in talking about mental health issues experienced by children and young people. Designed for those working with children with mental health difficulties in both Primary and Secondary school settings, the Conference will explore issues including self-harm, social media, mental health needs of vulnerable groups and understanding mental health needs from a parent's perspective. A full list of speakers will be announced shortly but will

include expert contributors from child psychiatry, neurodevelopment, social media and self-harm research. The day will provide great opportunities for schools to network in a supportive environment and for teachers to contribute their perspectives.

We hope you will be interested in attending the conference. Please register your interest by emailing educationcpd@le.ac.uk

The cost for the conference is £150 per person which includes lunch and refreshments throughout the day. This event will take place at Stamford Court, University of Leicester, Manor Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 2LH.

Khebrat: Management for Change Professional Development Programme

This academic year we are very pleased to welcome to the School of Education a group of 25 teachers from Saudi Arabia who are participating in a Khebrat Management for Change professional development programme designed to combine English language training, teacher education, and school experience (immersion) in the UK.

The Khebrat programme is a recent development by the Saudi Ministry of Education as part of the government's 2030 vision, of which educational capacity building is a core component. The teachers work in a range of contexts and include secondary English, maths and computer science subject specialists as well as primary educators. Their School of Education-based programme includes sessions on many aspects of culture, curriculum, pedagogy, policy and educational research, opportunities to visit Ash Field Academy, to observe lesson study

in action at Beaumont Leys School and to visit key sites such as the Space Centre, University Botanic Gardens and New Walk Museum and Art Gallery.

This programme is combined with alternate weeks of immersion, observation and reflective inquiry in academies from the Learning Without Limits Academy Trust (Babington Academy, The Lancaster Academy, Heatherbrook Primary Academy and Woodstock Primary Academy). We are extremely grateful to all partnership colleagues who are sharing their expertise and supporting this exciting professional development programme. We would especially like to thank the head teachers, staff and school communities of the Learning Without Limits Academy Trust who have made our Saudi teachers so welcome and are giving them invaluable opportunities to experience high quality learning and teaching in Leicester at first hand.

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