



School of Education

PGCE Partnership News

Editor's welcome

In this spring edition of Partnership News, you'll find information about a new teacher-led research journal and a special feature on Nick Anderson, ITE Coordinator at Moat Community College, who shares his tips for a successful mentoring programme.

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 courses offered by our professional development arm, Education CPD+.

There have been a few staff changes in the Partnership Office over the last few months, so we've taken this opportunity to reintroduce the team and say a little bit about individual roles. We're also delighted to be welcoming the new Head of the School of Education, Professor Rose Griffiths.

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. It also helps set the tone for the way in which their own teaching style evolves and has a profound impact on the way they view the teaching profession.

As always, we'd love to receive your feedback on Partnership News, as well as 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 229 7504.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Sue Kelliher
Partnership Manager

New Partnership Team up and running

The last few months have seen a period of significant change for the School of Education's Partnership Office, with three new faces joining the team. Here's a quick guide to who's who.

Sue Kelliher, the Partnership Manager, has oversight of the Partnership Office, with responsibilities including supporting the development of our partnerships, developing new school and SCITT relationships and supporting the growth of our CPD provision. Sue started in October and has a range of experience in education, having worked with other universities and as Deputy Director at the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

Oli Moore, one of two Partnership Coordinators, works to support and develop our relationship with partner schools and organisations. Oli helps organise key events like mentor training and conferences, as well as recruitment events, including Routes into Teaching. Oli also takes a lead on marketing our PGCE courses, managing our social media accounts, creating materials for events and updating the School of Education website.

Debbie Moss, Partnership Coordinator and our newest team member, joined us in November. Debbie has a rich and varied background, including significant time spent teaching abroad. Debbie is responsible for organising student placements, including liaising with schools, University tutors and students, and for supporting the quality assurance of our PGCE provision.

You can contact any of the team at pgcepartnership@le.ac.uk or by telephoning 0116 229 7504.

Contents:

Case study: Nick Anderson	2
School of Education welcomes new Head of School	3
New research journal: Research4andBYTeachers	4
CPD for schools: upcoming courses	5
Annual NQT Conference, January 2017	6
National College for Teaching and Leadership round-up	7
Partnership calendar	8

Case study

Nick Anderson, ITE Coordinator, Moat Community College

Moat Community College is an 11-19 inner-city school and Nick is the College's ITE Coordinator, PGCE/NQT/CPD Coordinator and Key Stage Coordinator for years 8 and 9.

In this feature, Nick shares some insights from his experience of overseeing placements for student teachers.

Tips for success

Moat has a long history of investing in staff to mentor and support the development of outstanding teachers. That makes my role as an ITE coordinator so much easier. It's really important that student teachers get a good deal and part of that is about ensuring mentors get the support they need too – happy mentors equal happy student teachers. My other top tip for success in this role? Being organised!

“ My other top tip for success in this role? Being organised! ”

Qualities of a good mentor

I believe that mentors should be 'good to outstanding teachers' who are supportive, empathic, self-evaluating and committed to development. Heads of department are particularly well-suited to the role as they have lots of experience to draw on.

Mentors at Moat receive one-to-one training which clearly sets out what's expected of them.

My advice to mentors is 'don't expect students to be teachers from the start'. Part of that is about ensuring the student teacher's timetable includes a good variety of activity and that 30-50% of their lessons are in the mentor's own classroom.

Challenges and advice to other coordinators

One of my main challenges, especially at the start of the Phase B spring placement, is 'exaggerated reports' from Phase A! That can make managing student expectations quite tricky. The way to overcome this challenge is through open discussion with both the student teacher and their mentor – it's really vital for ensuring that the placement provides the kind of experience the student needs to progress.

If I were offering advice to other ITE coordinators, I'd say communicate with departments in school as early as possible so they can plan for the student teacher's arrival and have everything ready – log-ins, forms etc – when they arrive. It makes for a smooth start to the student's time with you and also, importantly, makes them feel welcome.

Quality assurance

Ensuring the quality of support student teachers receive from mentors is a key part of my role. I run a programme of weekly professional sessions and student teachers are all introduced to members of the senior leadership team.

“ My advice to mentors is 'don't expect students to be teachers from the start'. ”

I also undertake quality assurance observations with the mentor and student teacher to check both the progress of the student and the quality of support provided by the mentor. This traditionally takes place during the third week of the student teacher's placement.

Moat runs coaching for developing teachers and programmes for good to outstanding teaching and learning. It also has a regular programme of learning walks. The impact of all quality and development processes is measured through teaching and learning observations.

Relationship with the University

I find the ITE coordinators conference held at the University at the beginning of the academic year really useful. It supports good communication and facilitates the sharing of good practice and feedback with other schools – all of which directly benefits the development of Moat's approach to mentoring and supporting student teachers.



School of Education welcomes new Head of School

Many of you will already know our new Head of School as she is one of the School of Education's longest-serving members of staff.

Professor Rose Griffiths began her teaching career as a secondary mathematics teacher and taught in many city and county settings, including primary, special and secondary schools, before joining the University in 1990. We've calculated that Rose has taught over 4,000 students on our PGCE Primary course, and hundreds of teachers on Masters and other professional development courses.

One of Rose's research interests is the educational experience of looked-after children. In 2013, she initiated a nationwide programme of support called the Letterbox Club, now running in partnership with the charity BookTrust. This hugely successful scheme now provides regular parcels of books and number games to about 12,000 children in care across the UK each year.

Last term, as part of the University's free Literary Leicester festival, Rose hosted a talk by author of the Tracy Beaker children's books and patron of the Letterbox Club, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, who said that "Tracy Beaker would have loved to have been a member!" The event, held at De Montfort Hall, attracted children, teachers, parents and carers from all over the country.

When asked about her new role, Rose said: "I'm looking forward to working with many more schools and teachers in the next few years and, hopefully, to meeting many of those on our courses or involved in our events and projects for children and young people."



Professor Rose Griffiths with author, Jacqueline Wilson, at the University's Literary Leicester festival

Leicester academic wins poetry competition



Dr Sue Dymoke, Reader in Education in the School of Education, has won first prize in the Nottingham Historic Green Spaces Poetry Competition.

The competition sought lively, original and contemporary poems that related to the city's award-winning parks and open spaces.

Sue said: "Nottingham's green spaces are such a vital part of the city. I've always loved walking through the Arboretum, not only for its fantastic trees, dahlia borders and its history, but also because it is a city space that's so well used by Nottingham people. This is the aspect of it that I wanted to capture in my poem."

Sue is a published poet with a particular interest in the processes of writing poetry and how this is taught in schools. She also belongs to the University's Centre for New Writing. Set up to support the work of writers, teachers of creative writing, independent publishers and literary agencies, the Centre offers a programme of workshops, lectures, masterclasses and seminars which are open to the general public and free to attend.

Read Sue's winning poem and catch up on her latest blog at www.suedymokepoetry.com

Find out more about the Centre for New Writing at www2.le.ac.uk/departments/english/creativewriting/centre/centre-for-new-writing

Strategic leadership lunch supports collaboration

On 17 January a group of senior school leaders from partner schools across the region joined colleagues from the University's Secondary PGCE team for the first of a series of strategic leadership lunches.

The purpose of the lunch was to consider some of the national policy issues impacting on teacher education, the particular needs of our own region and the implications for the development of Leicester's PGCE courses.

Training the next generation of outstanding teachers is very much a shared priority and close partnership between the University and schools is vital to ensuring that PGCE provision remains responsive to the needs of our education community, developing the kind of teachers who will make a real and sustained difference to pupils in the classroom.

The strategic leadership lunch, chaired by our Head of PGCE Secondary, Dr Jo Johnson, will be held twice a year, complementing the work of the Partnership Management Group by providing a more informal setting for discussion and networking.

Thank you to those who attended the first lunch. Everyone agreed it was a great opportunity to build relationships and facilitate collaborative ways of working.

If you're a headteacher or senior leader in a secondary school and would be interested in attending the next strategic leadership lunch, email pgcepartnership@le.ac.uk.



New research journal: Research4andBYTeachers

December saw the launch of the first issue of a new online journal dedicated to teacher-led research taking place in schools across the Midlands.

Research4&BYteachers will be published three times a year, with contributions focusing on research in five key areas: early years; mathematics; English; leadership; and initial teacher education.

Highlights from this issue:

- Supporting children with their physical development and the importance of this for children's education
- How reading interventions can be evaluated through their impact on students' self-esteem and self-perceptions as readers
- How manipulatives can support the development of mathematical understanding in a secondary school and the different strategies for teaching division at primary level
- The impact of the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) on leadership development, and how Academy Trust leaders can support those in small-schools within an Academy Trust
- The role of special school placements in training teachers
- The challenging experiences of male trainee teachers as they prepare to teach in primary schools

To read these and future articles, visit the online home of the journal at:

www.uolschoolpartnershipresearch.wordpress.com

Contribute to future issues of the journal:

- Contact the authors directly by email to provide feedback or discuss their ideas
- Comment on the articles via the journal website
- Start a Twitter conversation using #4andBY
- Submit an article or express an interest in joining the editorial board



CPD for schools: upcoming courses

The School of Education's professional development arm, Education CPD+, offers a range of innovative and practical courses that have a real impact on teaching and learning.

Run by expert subject leaders, courses cover a variety of topics, from mastering maths, to studying science and nature. Here are some highlights of courses coming up over the next few months.

To find out more about any of these courses, or to sign up to receive the regular CPD+ newsletter, visit www.le.ac.uk/educationcpd or call the team on 0116 252 3771.

Smart Materials

8 March 2017 · Price: £130

This practical course will give participants an opportunity to try out many different smart materials and to see how they could be incorporated into Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 science activities.

A vital element of the day will be discussing where these individually exciting activities can appropriately fit into the science curriculum.

Primary science subject leaders update: Keeping up-to-date with science curriculum development

7 June 2017 · Price: £130

This not-to-be-missed day for all established subject leaders will bring participants up to speed with new and emerging policy and developments from the Department for Education, Ofsted and other science education organisations.

Make Nature Your Classroom

8 June 2017 · Price: £130

This course for primary teachers will offer lots of ideas for using outdoor learning to teach fun, engaging and memorable science lessons.

PGCE placements for 2017/18

Shortly before the Easter break, we'll be starting the process of collecting offers of placements for the 2017-2018 school year.

We'll begin by sending out details of the placement dates and what's involved and ask schools to make offers using our online data collection system.

If you've never offered placements to University of Leicester students before and would like to find out more about what's involved, including the training and support we offer to mentors, email pgcepartnership@le.ac.uk or phone **0116 252 5736**.

DBS and other checks for students on school placements

We've had a number of enquiries over the last few months about the checks we undertake to ensure that students following the Leicester PGCE, whether on the University-led or School Direct route, are suitable to work with children.

We've produced some new guidance that provides a clear overview of all the checks we undertake, with links to relevant policy, information and advice documents produced by the Department for Education and organisations such as the Universities' Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET). The guidance covers DBS, criminal records checks for students who have spent time abroad, fitness to practise, right to work and study visas.

The guidance is available to partner schools on our Blackboard website and will be published in future PGCE course and placement handbooks. You can also request a copy by contacting the Partnership Office: pgcepartnership@le.ac.uk

Stop press

Hot off the cutting room floor, our new PGCE videos are now online! Thanks to St Cuthbert's Primary School and Kingsthorpe College for hosting the filming and to our video stars, Katie Tunnicliffe and Chris Crooke for sharing their stories.

You can view the videos at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=e36aravIKTQ

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAAOHmBXmnY

If you're promoting places on the Leicester PGCE course, why not link to the videos from your website. For more details, contact: pgcepartnership@le.ac.uk

Annual NQT Conference, January 2017

Sixty eight newly qualified teachers (NQTs) from primary and secondary schools across the region gathered together in January for the University's annual NQT Conference.

Highlight of the day was a keynote address by Matthew Burton, star of TV's *Educating Yorkshire*, who delivered an inspirational session encouraging attendees to 'be that teacher' – the kind of teacher who makes a positive difference in the classroom and creates real turning points for their pupils.

He shared some of the challenges of making that happen and talked about his own experience of overcoming them, offering some practical tips and guidance for attendees to try in their own classrooms.

"Very inspiring."

"I feel energised again!"

The day also offered a range of interactive workshops, looking at strategies for developing practice in areas including challenging the more able, behaviour for learning, performance poetry and mastery in maths.

"It was great to catch up with friends and share experiences."

Aside from the more formal sessions, the day was a great opportunity for newly qualified teachers to come together to share their recent experiences, meet up with old friends, including fellow graduates from their training year, and generally reflect and compare notes on their first few months in the job.

We're already thinking about ways in which we can develop the support we offer to newly qualified teachers – not just those who graduate with a Leicester PGCE, but any teacher taking up their first role in a local or regional school. If you have any thoughts on this, we'd really like to hear them.

Get in touch at pgcepartnership@le.ac.uk



L to R: Sue Davis, Head of PGCE Primary, and Jo Anna Reed Johnson, Head of PGCE Secondary, with keynote speaker, Matthew Burton from the TV programme, *Educating Yorkshire*



NQTs explore some of the challenges of 'being that teacher'

National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL)

Round-up of latest news on teacher recruitment for schools and ITT providers

National school experience portal

NCTL's national school experience portal enables schools and providers to upload details of school experience days on the Get Into Teaching website, providing national exposure to a large number of potential applicants. To access the online portal, email schoolexperience@ta-recruit.education.gov.uk or call 0800 085 0962.

Subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) in modern foreign languages (MFL)

NCTL will now fund candidates to undertake two SKE courses in MFL, so they're equipped to teach two languages. This may include a refresher course in their main language. If you have an applicant who could benefit from this, contact an SKE provider: www.gov.uk/government/publications/subject-knowledge-enhancement-course-directory

For more information on SKE provision visit www.gov.uk/guidance/subject-knowledge-enhancement-an-introduction or email ta.ske@education.gov.uk

New Languages Teacher Training Scholarship

This scheme provides additional support to enhance the subject knowledge of modern foreign language teacher trainees, with access to high-quality professional development resources, mentoring and a tax-free scholarship of £27,500. The scheme is aimed at high-quality French, German and Spanish linguists.

Find out more at www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-create/opportunity/uk/languages-teacher-training-scholarships

School-led ITT networks

These networks, supported by NCTL, enable collaboration and sharing of best practice to support ITT recruitment. To join or find out more about your local network, email school.ittnetworks@education.gov.uk

Marketing resources for schools

NCTL has refreshed its marketing resource bank, which offers guidance, top tips on using different channels, best practice case studies, content, templates and artwork to help schools and providers market and promote School Direct initial teacher training places. You can access it at www.gov.uk/government/collections/school-direct-marketing-resource-bank

Does your school need a Spanish modern foreign language teacher?

Spain's Visiting Teachers programme provides opportunities for schools to recruit high-quality teachers from Spain. To register an interest or find out more, visit www.gov.uk/guidance/spains-visiting-teachers-programme

Leicester science teachers conference

The annual Leicester Science Hub Conference will be taking place at Beaumont Leys School on 1 April.

The conference will feature a keynote address by Dr Turi King from the University's Department of Genetics, who led the genome sequencing of King Richard III. There will also be practical workshops on soldering, electricity and primary science as well as workshops to support teaching science in the classroom. To find out more and to register, email Melody Elliott at MElliott@rushey-rmet.org.uk



Ofsted: new publications and materials

HMCI's Annual Report: www.gov.uk/government/collections/ofsted-annual-report-201516

Published 1 December 2016. The following page and paragraph references may be of particular interest to ITE colleagues:

- HMCI's commentary: pages 13-14
- Capacity in the school system – information about teacher supply: pages 122-126, paragraphs 278-285
- The performance of ITE providers (QTS and FE): pages 125-126, paragraphs 286 to 289
- ITE statistics: page 136
- The early years section of the report includes information relating to EY ITT and EYTS: pages 37-38, paragraphs 37-42

Initial teacher education: inspections and outcomes up to 30 June 2016:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/initial-teacher-education-inspections-and-outcomes

First published 26 September 2016; republished 24 November 2016.

Early Years: www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkXnkJ8AZW0

Jane Wotherspoon, HMI, talks about what 'teaching' means in an early years setting.

And finally... all in a good cause

PGCE students and staff have been doing their bit to raise funds for two important charities – and having lots of fun along the way.

At the start of the autumn term, the School of Education hosted two coffee mornings for the MacMillan cancer charity, including, of course, our very own Bake Off completion. The panel of judges had the tough challenge of tasting more than



34 cakes before crowning the champion baker – a job they took very seriously! Both mornings raised an impressive £650, outstripping previous years' totals.

In December everyone embraced the Christmas spirit to support Save the Children's Christmas Jumper day, raising £85.75 for the charity with their fabulous array of festive knitwear.

Partnership calendar

Date	Event
28 February	Secondary Partnership Management Group (2)
28 February & 1 March	Secondary Phase B placement preliminary days
2 March	Routes into Teaching open evening
3 March	Primary TE2 placement ends
6 March	Secondary Phase B placement starts
27 March	Primary TE3 mentor training
29 & 30 March	Primary TE3 placement preliminary days
24 April	Primary TE3 placement starts
25 April	Routes into Teaching open evening
15/16/17 May	Secondary external examiner school visits
23 May	Routes into Teaching open evening
24 May	Secondary Partnership Management Group (3)
25 May	Primary Partnership Management Group (3)
6 June	Primary TE3 placement mid-assessment meeting
16 June	Secondary Phase B placement ends
19/20/21 June	Primary external examiner school visits
23 June	Primary TE3 placement ends

Partnership News is published four times a year and brings together news, stories and information relevant to teacher education and our partnership with schools. If you'd like to find out more about opportunities to work with us to develop the next generation of outstanding teachers, please contact Sue Kelliher at **pgcepartnership@le.ac.uk**.

You can also use this address to let us know if you'd prefer not to receive future issues of the newsletter.

For more information

School of Education,
University of Leicester,
21 University Road,
Leicester,
LE1 7RF, UK

t: +44 (0) 116 229 7504
e: pgcepartnership@le.ac.uk
w: www.le.ac.uk/pgce

 @uniofleicester  /uniofleicester



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

© University of Leicester

All information in this document was correct at the time of going to press. However, changes and developments are part of the life of the University, and alterations may occur to the programmes and services described in this brochure.