

Suffolk & Norfolk Initial Teacher Training

As there have been a number of new developments in school-based initial teacher training in recent months, we wanted to take the opportunity to update you.

Outstanding Ofsted Success

As you may have seen in the local press recently, Suffolk & Norfolk ITT has just been endorsed by Ofsted as a high quality Provider. Our three ITT Programmes have received grades for 'overall effectiveness' and 'capacity to improve' ranging from 'strong good' to 'outstanding'. Indeed some aspects of the Programmes were hailed by the inspection teams as the best practice they had ever seen. We recognise that much of this success is down to the high quality of mentoring in local schools and we would like to thank our current school partners for your vital role in training. Other highlights included:

- The significant improvement in trainee attainment year on year
- Trainees' skills in behaviour management
- The high levels of commitment to the partnership shown by partner schools

Leadership Update

There have been a number of changes to personnel this year. Peal Gibson was seconded to lead the Secondary SCITT (School Centred ITT) from last September and I am very pleased to say will continue with us for a second year. Paul Law also took up his post as Primary and Secondary GTP Leader in September and I am delighted to report will also continue in his role next year. Paul's remit includes responsibility for our Overseas Trained Teacher Programme. Carol Nind continues to lead the Primary SCITT with distinction. Together these four programmes make up Suffolk and Norfolk Initial Teacher Training – or SNITT. Following the retirement of Eddie Casey last summer, I have now taken up the post of overall ITT Leader.

What are the benefits for schools involved in ITT?

- Involvement in ITT helps to develop existing staff as they reflect on their own practice in the light of mentoring a trainee
- Partnership with SCITT and GT Programmes can be an effective means of recruiting new staff, especially in shortage subjects
- Trainees bring an influx of up-to-date knowledge, methodology and resources from their central training
- Children often benefit from the enthusiasm and lively teaching of a developing trainee
- Later in their practice, trainees can release time for their departmental colleagues to focus on activities such as developing resources and working with small groups

And finally, thank you...

In all of this, we recognise the debt that we owe to our partner schools. Teacher training does require a considerable commitment from all those who participate, but the high quality of teachers who emerge and the addition to the teaching stock does make it very worthwhile.

If you are already a partner school, then thank you. If you would like to be a partner school, then please do get in touch. Perhaps you currently have graduates in school working as instructors, HLTAs, TAs or in some other capacity who would like to gain QTS. Please consider putting such staff in touch with us. The website will be open for applications in early September 2010.

Full details of all our Programmes and an application form can be found on the website:
www.snitt.co.uk

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