

Your ref:  
My ref: FC/indivlet/cr

Date : 21 February 2011

Please ask for: Fred Corbett  
Contact Number: 01603 223492

Dear Headteacher

I am sure you will agree that it is the responsibility of us all, in schools and in the Local Authority, to do our best to support new entrants into teaching. Of equal importance is for us to encourage suitable students to enter the profession.

I have been very impressed over the years by the superb support schools have given to initial teacher trainees irrespective of the route into teaching they have chosen. The partnership with UEA and other Higher Education providers is particularly strong. In terms of the large number of teachers needed, the university route will continue to be very important to us.

However, the Suffolk and Norfolk Initial Teacher Training (SNITT) Programme also remains hugely important to us. This programme has been highly regarded by schools across both counties and achieved very high grades in Ofsted inspections.

The programme is very dependent on the close involvement of schools and particularly the designated specialist "Training Schools" across both counties. We are now moving into a period when the newly created idea of 'Teaching Schools' will become critical within any school centred initial teacher training. We need a coherent network of 'Teaching Schools' to deliver the SNITT in future. The criteria for becoming a Teaching School are challenging and can be found on [www.nationalcollege.org.uk/teachingschools](http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/teachingschools)

To enable us to plan the future of the SNITT it would be very helpful if you would let me know;-

- i. When you are planning to become a Teaching School.
- ii. If you do not currently meet the Teaching School criteria whether you are interested in being part of a network of Norfolk Teaching/Training Schools which make a high commitment to ITT and you would like to be part of a system of schools linked to Teaching Schools in the future.

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- iii. If you have any ideas how we can strengthen the recruitment, training, commitment to new entrants to the profession to secure high quality teaching in the future.

A note, letter or email ([fred.corbett@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:fred.corbett@norfolk.gov.uk)) on any of the above would be helpful in shaping our plans for the future of the SNITT.

I am currently chairing a review of the SNITT and your comments would be invaluable. When we complete the review I will ensure that its outcomes are communicated to you. We are delighted that student numbers for next year have been increased, a real sign of national confidence in its quality. However for a secure future we need clarity about school involvement linked to the 3 points above.

I look forward to your comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Corbett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

**Fred Corbett**  
**Assistant Director (Children's Services)**