

Dear Headteacher

## **Supporting Initial Teacher Training through COVID-19**

### **Adapted teacher training for 2020-21**

We are getting in touch to let you know that we are working with our school partners to adapt the training programme for the Primary PGCE programme for the next cohort of trainees.

Their training will be flexibly arranged to enable them to address the new demands of classroom teaching in the COVID-19 climate. Some key priorities in the adapted training programme will ensure that they are prepared for classroom teaching and contributing to online educational activities. Drawing on the best available evidence, including the recently published Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) COVID-19 SUPPORT GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS, we will be preparing them as well as we can to support pupils' effectively, in the different school contexts in which they have their placements.

### **School Placements**

During the coming academic year, we are preparing for a situation in which trainees may have both in-person and remote aspects of placements, due to any COVID-19 restrictions affecting their training. It is a priority for us to develop placement provision that is adaptable to different school contexts.

### **Benefits to schools of hosting student teachers**

We hope that you will see the potential benefits of hosting student teachers during the next academic year. From the outset of their training, we will be preparing them to contribute to pupils' learning through their placements. In the early stages, this might, for example, include work with individuals and small groups of pupils. Where possible, we will encourage schools to target their support for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We are prepared for them to work in different ways during their placements, with the ongoing support of a mentor. They may, for example, be attached to a class 'bubble' with opportunities to contribute to structured intervention programmes and contribute to online tuition and support.

This brings additional flexibility for schools hosting trainees and clear benefits for all concerned.

### **CPD Accredited mentor training**

With the introduction of the Core Content Framework (CCF) for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) in September 2020, followed by the aligned Early Career Framework (ECF) in September 2021, we know it will be a priority for schools to strengthen their mentor training and support.

We are delighted to be able to offer CPD accredited mentor training for all our mentors from September. This hope this will be seen as a valuable contribution to the ongoing development of a strong community of teachers able to mentor new teachers to the profession.

This CPD accredited training is fully funded by UEA in 2020-21, and is planned initially to take place online to facilitate maximum participation and support for our partnership's teachers.

### **Working in partnership with UEA to address local and regional needs and priorities**

We continue to work with the local authority, Norwich Opportunity Area (NOA) Viscount Nelson Education Network (VNET), our partnership MATs, and schools to address regional needs and

priorities. If you would like to know more about working in partnership with us and offering placements to our students please respond to our placements administrator, Jo Donnelly, in the first instance [hub.placements.pgcepy@uea.ac.uk](mailto:hub.placements.pgcepy@uea.ac.uk)

Kind regards

Deirdre Medler

Director of Initial Teacher Education