

Making a Difference

ITE NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 3 - FEBRUARY 2016



Message from Director of ITE, Jo Tregenza

It seems strange to be saying this in February, but Happy New Year! We hope you managed to have a wonderful break with families and friends.

We are now five weeks into the new term - and looking forward to the half term break! Historically, trainees find this a challenging time as the workloads build up, whilst still maintaining focus on their APK assignments. There are many ways that you can support trainees now. Since they will be building up to a more significant teaching load in March, any opportunities to step back - perhaps co-teach with or observe a colleague in a different department or school - will really help them to reflect on their own teaching.

Some of you will be considering whether you would like to offer an 'enhancing placement'.

Many schools find this a useful way of supporting their own teacher recruitment. The enhancing placement is an essential part of the required provision for teacher training. All trainees MUST teach in two different schools or settings. This placement should be complementary in nature to the trainee's first placement. The design of the course at the University of Sussex enables us to really identify what sort of placement would contribute to making the best possible teachers. The real benefit for schools offering the placement is that you will be receiving trainee teachers who are virtually qualified having already exceeded the minimum standards with the vast majority judged good or better. As such, they are able to take on much more responsibility than a novice trainee teacher.

We are currently getting many enquiries about potential NQT jobs for 2016 and several of our current trainees have already been snapped up. So if you think you may need to recruit an NQT for 2016, start soon!

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CPD @ Cams Hill Science Consortium

Dr Andy Chandler-Grevatt, Science Curriculum Tutor, is working with a number of science teachers from partner schools at the successful Cams Hill Science Consortium.

The Sussex group of eight teachers is developing teaching models for difficult concepts in the new GCSEs, and sharing the findings with each other.

The Hampshire group will run a conference in 2018.

Recruitment Progress

Recruitment to the 2016/17 cohort is going well with over 220 candidates accepting their offers for PGCE or School Direct courses at the University of Sussex! This number is significantly greater than at the same point in previous years. Many thanks to schools for all your hard work with School Direct recruitment.

Secondary History and Primary PGCE are virtually full - nationally and at here at Sussex. Secondary English, Maths and the Sciences are also recruiting well at Sussex and almost full, though still recruiting nationally. All other secondary subjects are accepting applications at Sussex, including the slower to recruit but much needed specialisms such as Languages, Drama, Music, Geography, RE and DT.

Please continue to respond and turn your applications and interviews around as quickly as possible in all subjects in order to secure great candidates for your schools.

Partnership Opportunities: An event for headteachers, governors and senior leaders

On Wednesday 24th February, 4-6pm, we will be hosting a special event for headteachers, governors, professional tutors and other senior leaders on how the University can work in closer partnership with your school, including:

- presentations from local school research leaders from the Sussex Research Network
- an introduction to the work of the Centre for Teaching and Learning Research (CTLR) by Professor Gillian Hampden-Thompson
- the latest information on current policy developments in teacher education and professional development

To reserve a place - and also to receive further details of the event - contact Janine O'Malley E janine.omalley@sussex.ac.uk

Remember

1. PURs were due on 5th February [submission to ite@sussex.ac.uk].
2. The deadline for schools to complete Cause for Concern Reports for Professional Practice 2 is 29th February. After this date, a Cause for Concern process cannot be completed. Earlier notification gives more time for support.



Sussex Partnership Recruitment Event

The next Sussex Partnership Recruitment Event for PGCE and School Direct will be on Tuesday 15th March at Hove Park School (school hall), Nevill Road, Hove from 5.30-7.30pm.

As usual, a stand will be available for any School Direct partnership that wishes to send a representative to make contact with potential candidates. Please let School Direct Course Leader, Sally Dudley, know that you wish to attend:
E s.e.dudley@sussex.ac

We are advertising this recruitment event in the local press, through Facebook, and on both the University and NCTL websites. However, we continue to rely heavily on you, our partner schools, to spread the word in your local areas.

A poster for the event is attached. We would be really grateful if both lead and partner schools could post this on school websites, display it in schools and local community buildings and email it (or details from it) to parents.

Thank you to Hove Park School for one again hosting this event for the partnership.

We do realise that, as primary teacher training routes for 2016/17 are very nearly closed to new applications nationally, primary partners probably won't wish to attend.

We are continuing to attend both local and national recruitment events to promote all of our partnership School Direct and PGCE places. We've attended more than 10 already this cycle! If you have candidates contacting you wishing to get more information or discuss their application with tutors, please direct them to our website where they will find details of upcoming events:
www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite/meetus



Secondary Teaching Taster Course

Tanbridge House School is hosting a Teaching Taster Course from the 14th-18th March for strong candidates considering teaching as a career and wanting to gain insight into school life.

Register for a place identifying subject specialism and degree subject:
E iteadmissions@sussex.ac.uk

School Direct Enhancing Professional Practice (second placements)

If you have not already done so, all School Direct partners need to arrange second placements for their trainees as soon as possible. The School Direct tuition fee (training route) starts on the 11th April.

School Direct (salaried) placements will start either seven weeks from 11th April, or on some Fridays after February half term, with an additional block of four weeks in June (see main handbook - dates schedule on pages 9-10, and other relevant information on pages 42-44.

(Note: username: pgcepartner / password: partnership (all lowercase)

www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite/partners

Ideally, schools will swap trainees within their local or the wider partnership, securing placements that contrast as much as possible for trainees (see guidelines on page 43 of the handbook).

Professional Tutors will need to complete the attached form. If you have not already done so, please return the form by Friday 12th February to give us an accurate record of trainee placements:
E itepartnership@sussex.ac.uk

Please also pass on the date of the next Mentor Training Meeting to any school not already working with the University of Sussex this year who are hosting trainees for their second placement: 16th March.

Partnership Forum (Professional Tutors' meeting)

Wednesday 9th March

4.15-6.15pm

Room 107, Fulton Building, University of Sussex

To include:

- Funding for mentors attending sessions after 4pm (honorarium or additional supply)
- Evaluation
- Feedback on long-term placements
- EPK timings
- Recruitment update
- Google docs
- Professional Studies for the 'Enhanced Placement'

For the inclusion of additional items, Professional Tutors should email Sue Pinnick
E S.A.J.Pinnick@sussex.ac.uk

Reserve your place at the meeting at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1n0ePMY8VriVOMYuVANFAeQpXISbWrE-kQMhn2DQTZZg/viewform>

Sussex Consortium Steering Committee

Wednesday 16th March

10.30am-12.30pm

* Venue and booking details to be confirmed
For nominated Headteachers, Professional Tutors, Mentors and trainees from Partnership schools

New Mentor Training for Enhancing Professional Practice

Wednesday 16th March

1-4pm

* Venue and booking details to be confirmed
For anyone supervising a trainee after Easter who has never mentored a Sussex trainee before - in a Primary or Secondary setting. It is unlikely you will know who this might include right now as placements will not be finalised until after half term.

Mentor Training for All Enhancing Professional Practice

Wednesday 16th March

4.30-6.30pm

* Venue and booking details to be confirmed
For all Mentors (Primary and Secondary) supervising a trainee after Easter. It is unlikely you will know who this might include right now as placements will not be finalised until after half term.

PGCE trainees (and School Direct trainees who have not yet met their Mentor) are invited to attend towards the end of the session to meet their Mentor.

