Coronavirus has led to some fundamental changes in the way we all work. We have all had to navigate new systems, software and approaches to teaching and learning in the face of many constraints. The positivity, enthusiasm and effort that members of the partnership have demonstrated under very difficult circumstances has been remarkable. With several weeks of remote working under our belts, lots of us may be experiencing a fall in motivation and productivity right now. Here are a few insights/tips from few members of our PGCE team on how they are adapting.

Simon Quinnell (Subject Area Leader Science)
Two things for me, making sure we have regular video meetings to keep in touch with the rest of the team so it does not feel too lonely and to break down your day into sections, I go for a run before work and start a little later and spread out my working hours across the week to break up the days.

Helen Snelson (Subject Area Leader for History)
People matter: make time in meetings for contact and checking in and being a bit social now we have lost spontaneity and frequent contact in classrooms and corridors. Collaborate for creativity: arrange to meet to brainstorm and create on a specific topic, rather than every meeting being about admin and problems. Physical health: move from time to time, take a walk outside and try to think about sitting posture to avoid developing back pain and the like. Lower expectations: things take longer, we are learning how to work in different ways, be gentle on yourself and don’t be afraid to assert what’s not possible for you in the new normal. Enjoy learning: there are opportunities to think in new ways and to learn new skills and to view things from different perspectives - an enjoyable challenge.

Summer Term: May 2020
School Partnership Bulletin

KEY DATES

ASSESSMENT 3: The final submission deadline is 2pm on Friday 29 May 2020. Marks and feedback shall be available in the w/c 22nd June.

PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT:
Week 1: w/c Monday 8th June
Week 2: w/c Monday 15th June.

END OF PGCE COURSE: 26th June 2020

THANK YOU

Wednesday May 20th is National Thank A Teacher Day.

It will mark a moment when we, as a nation, can come together to say thank you to teachers across the country who are making a difference.

Find out more on the National Thank a Teacher Day website.

A huge thank you to all our partnership teachers and trainees for what you do, not just during these difficult times but every day.
NEW WAYS OF WORKING CONTINUED..

Leanne Mason (Subject Area Leader Science)
I like to write a list so I can keep going with jobs throughout the day and don't lose focus.

Things may sometimes be a struggle and that's okay, seek help and advice from your support network, talk to tutors and focus on the positives. These challenges will shift, and we will return to a new normal with plenty of new skills and expanded adaptability.

Teachers skills improve during lock down TES article

PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT

Between Monday 8th and Friday 19th June 2020 our Professional Enrichment Programme shall take place. This is a valuable and career enhancing opportunity to further develop needs and interests within teaching, learning and education.

Despite Government plans to open up some educational settings from the 1st June onwards, the Professional Enrichment programme will not involve trainees physical presence in educational settings. Beyond our duty of care for trainees, educational establishments shall be under huge pressure to organise and navigate social distancing and the health and welfare of their staff and pupils.

Our aim is for the Professional Enrichment programme to support our partnership schools where possible and University tutors will advise trainees on suitable projects within their subject areas in the w/c 1st June.

During the two weeks dedicated to Professional Enrichment there will be opportunities to engage with a variety of guest speakers from alternative provisions, specialist areas of education and charities in both the local area and beyond.

CPD OPPORTUNITIES

The ResearchEd network has launched a series of daily live talks taking place via Zoom at 11am or 2pm each day. All of these are available on YouTube shortly after the live talk, if you are unable to attend or get a space in the live talk.

A top pick from Week 3 is David Didau on How to Pay Attention

LINK to Week 4 programme

A short read on what some of Richard Mayer’s research says about how we should design online learning. Daisy Christodoulou - What does the research say about designing video lessons.

Dyslexia Awareness course helps teachers understand the strengths dyslexia learners have and the challenges they face in the classroom. It offers tips on creating dyslexia-inclusive spaces. Made By Dyslexia is a global charity, and they have recruited two experts (from Millfield School UK and Schenck School USA) to share their expertise in these Microsoft modules.
The University's Education Department are launching a new MA Educational Practice in September 2020.

This has been designed in response to requests from teachers who have already achieved 60 credits at Masters level through their PGCE qualifications.

The course is a ‘blended learning’ programme. Studying will take place via a Virtual Learning Environment and three Saturday workshops per module. As well as a supportive one-to-one relationship with a personal tutor via e-communication or telephone.

The three first year modules are designed to develop a teacher’s critical knowledge and understanding of research rich practice: Leading Learning, Practitioner Researcher and Working Meaningfully with Educational Research. In the second year, you undertake an Independent Professional Study linked to a key area of interest to you and your practice.

You will find a course postcard attached to this email. Please forward the postcard to anyone who may have an interest and/or be eligible to participate.

If you would like further information about this new qualification please contact: Paula Mountford via email: paula.mountford@york.ac.uk

Content: The vast majority of trainees strongly agreed that the WSI sessions were easy to locate on the VLE, accessible and that they were relevant to your development as a teacher. A small number of trainees (approximately 17%) did feel that the sessions took too long.
WHOLE SCHOOL ISSUES (WSI)

We understand that commitments and personal circumstances during this unsettled period will both impact and fluctuate. Trainees will continue to be expected to do 3 hours of WSI work during the week at a time that best suits them but as a result of your feedback some of the planned sessions have been reshaped and we have some optional extras. This will allow trainees who are able to continue to access all the materials and give more flexibility for others to return to optional materials if desired. Trainees should keep in close contact with their CA tutor and discuss any workload or time management issues they encounter, we are here to support.

Materials: 85% of trainees found the materials clear and 90% easy to navigate. 68% agreed that the resources were interesting and engaging with an additional 10% neutral. Trainees have offered some suggestions and your individual extended answers have been very insightful, informing the team on new areas to for inclusion in the future. Further feedback is welcomed.

Collaboration: Trainees are enjoying the opportunities to share resources and reflect of their practice - the Padlet on delivering remote PSHE is brimming with resources trainees have created and many commented on how useful these will be in future practice. No matter what our subject specialism, PSHE is an area you could be called upon or willingly offer to get involved in. The preferred method of collaboration was inconclusive and so it seems sensible to offer a range of tools within each session so that trainees could select their preferred method.

Upcoming WSI sessions:
w/b 18th May - Behaviour Management: Consolidating your practice
w/b 25th May - Marking and Feedback

NQT TEACHING POSTS

A reminder that schools should continue to send details of NQT positions to the PGCE administrators at: education-pgce-administrator@york.ac.uk

Once information is received, the details are promptly passed on to the relevant trainees via CA tutors and UoY VLE.

PGCE NEWSLETTER

We would like contributions for our end of year newsletter. We are really hoping that as part of this, some of you might be able to find a bit of time to write a few paragraphs or provide some snapshots and/or photographs from involvement in the partnership.

Please send any entries to caroline.capper@york.ac.uk

FUTURE EDITIONS

Please let us know if you would like to feature an event/information in the bulletin which could be of benefit to trainees and colleagues in the partnership. The next edition will be released in June.

Contact: Vic Allen, School Partnership Facilitator: victoria.allen@york.ac.uk

A reminder that the University has a Coronavirus advice page for staff and students.