Welcome to the PGCE Partnership Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the PGCE Partnership Newsletter. Our aim is to share good practice across our Partnership. As a Partnership we have a long and successful history of collaboration and creativity. For our Partnership to be awarded a Grade One ‘Outstanding’ in the March 2010 OFSTED inspection we were recognised as working in innovative ways, contributing to teacher CPD, ensuring pupils make progress and that trainee teachers learn from excellent school-based and university staff.

Professional collaboration brings benefits to trainees, teachers and pupils. The following brief articles will provide you with a flavour of some of the exciting projects taking place across the Partnership.

Update:
We have now received the 2012-13 allocations from the TDA: Total: 119 trainees - English 16, History 12, Maths 31, MFL 25, Sciences 35.

News
This year we have the following school-based staff seconded to work on the PGCE programme: Helen Snelson - The Mount, Rachael Carew – Fulford, Louise Manning – Easingwold, Rachel Johnson – Lady Lumley’s, Jane Mitchell– Lady Lumley’s, Nicola Towle – Fulford, and Helen Granger – AST.

“Working on the PGCE programme has added a new dimension to my professional life which is of benefit both to my students back at school and to me. Leading a range of sessions in the Autumn term inevitably makes one reflect further upon and improve one’s own practice and ‘get around’ to that reading that hasn’t quite made it to the top of the ‘to do’ pile. Working alongside the trainees has also helped me understand more about the nature of progression in general. I enjoy the chance to get involved with interviewing, to contribute to development projects, to encourage and help PGCE students using my school experience and to take opportunities to make links between projects where both PGCE and school students can benefit.”
Helen Snelson, The Mount School

Sharing good practice
Each year we invite colleagues from partnership schools to lead sessions at the University, showcasing areas of expertise and good practice and providing a CPD opportunity for school-based colleagues. The following colleagues have led sessions on the PGCE in the Autumn term:

Whole School Issues:
Mike Bruce, Using Data – Huntington School
Asif Ali, EAL – The Co-Operative Academy, Leeds
Yvette Bent and Sue Fisher, Behaviour - York LA
Joe Cocker, Professional Safety and Child Protection – York LA
Mike Jory, AFL – York LA

English:
Ryan Wilson, NQT- Preparing for Main Placement – Joseph Rowntree School

History:
Sarah Thompson, Differentiation/Inclusion – Lady Lumley’s School
Kate Day, Questioning Skills – Lady Lumley’s School
Heather Laws, NQT – preparing for main placement – Sherburn School

Kate Jenner, The History National Curriculum – Fulford School

Maths:
Linda Akitt, Alternative Approaches to teaching A-level, King James School.

MFL:
Claire Maloney- Canon Lee and Mike Jory – York LA, Assessment at KS3
Tania Andrle, applications for First Posts - Millthorpe School
Hannah Botteril, Interviews – St. Aidan’s

Science:
Jason Drewitt Grey, ICT in Science education – Benton Park School
Jayne Gaunt, TEEP, Outwood Grange Academy Ripon

Jayne led an excellent TEEP session with Science trainees.
**History A Level day**  
In November 2011 History trainees planned, designed and delivered a very successful History A Level day for Year 12 students from All Saints, Boroughbridge and Huntington Schools. Lizzy Hewitt (All Saints), Katherine McAlpine, John Titmouse (Huntington) and Simon Day (Boroughbridge) commented that that the trainees were prepared and creative in their approach and that students were fully engaged in the workshops and activities. Workshops focused on essay writing skills, independent research skills, note taking skills and source analysis. Sixth Formers gave very positive feedback on the day. “A fantastic opportunity for our students on two levels: it allows them to sample university life whilst developing their skills as historians.” Lizzy Hewitt, PGCE Mentor, All Saints School, York.

If you are interested in being involved next year, please contact Paula at: paula.mountford@york.ac.uk

**National Priorities – Behaviour and SEND resources:**

Charlie’s checklist – what do you think?

E-Safety  


SEND - DFE: http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen

**English event at Fulford**  
In keeping with recent tradition, English trainees spent a day in January at Fulford School working with English teachers, Nicola Goodwill and Chloe Dolphin. The focus of the day was “Personalising Learning”. Over the course of the day trainees gained insight into providing appropriate challenge and enrichment for gifted and talented learners and also discovered more about supporting students with autism and dyslexia.

The day included a taught session interspersed with discussion and an extended group planning task where trainees went on to apply their learning by planning pairs of lessons. In order for trainees to do this, Chloe and Nicola provided pen portraits for different fictitious Key Stage 4 classes. The day culminated in four excellent presentations where each group of trainees shared ideas for delivering effective personalised learning.

**English event at St. Aidan’s**  
Dressed in their smartest interview attire, English trainees arrived promptly at St. Aidan’s one January morning to spend a day working closely with members of the Senior Leadership Team and colleagues from the English Department. The event was co-ordinated by English mentor, Caroline Daly, and involved trainees working through a carousel of activities designed to support them in successfully gaining their first post. Activities focused on: what makes a successful letter of application; interview questions including the interview situation itself and how to deliver an effective demonstration lesson. Although deliberately gruelling at times, trainees felt this was extremely valuable preparation in assisting them with the process of finding that all important first job.

**Maths A Level Event**  
On Tuesday 10th January, the PGCE Mathematics trainees led a highly successful A Level revision morning at King James’s School in Knaresborough. This event offered sixth form mathematics students the chance to participate in Decision or Mechanics revision activities designed to help prepare them for their upcoming exams. Various stations were set up and the event ran like a carousel, with students spending 15 minutes at each station before moving round. The trainees in charge of Mechanics chose to design their activities around a superheroes theme, with activities including calculating displacement and acceleration in a race between Superman and Flash! Meanwhile, the Decision group adopted the theme ‘Around the World’ and had stations dedicated to Las Vegas, China, the UK, Australia, Japan and The Seven Wonders of the World. Feedback from the sixth formers was very positive; they found the morning enjoyable and highly valuable!

Claire Lofts Maths PGCE 2011-12.

“Brilliant and creative ideas in both subject areas” - Linda Akitt PGCE Maths Mentor King James School. If you are interested in being involved next year please contact Ann at: ann.gannon@york.ac.uk
Creating Citizenship Communities

This project, funded by the Esme Fairbairn Foundation and led by the partnership team of the Department of Education at the University of York and the National Foundation for Education Research (Ian Davies, Gill Hampden-Thompson, Maria Tsouroufi, Vanita Sundaram, Pippa Lord and Jen Jeffes), will enhance learning about, through and for citizenship and community involvement. The project aims to identify current practice and, through the development of a focussed impact strategy, encourages partnerships to be established between professionals and others. The main stages of this project allow for a review of literature on citizenship and community engagement, secondary data analysis, a survey of schools and 8 case studies. Resources will be produced that will be of value to professionals and young people, helping them to engage with key issues about community and citizenship.

Maths in Box

During the autumn term the Maths PGCE group had a workshop called “Opening the Box” from Hazel Lewis (IMA HE STEM Project Officer) to introduce them to the resources in “Maths in a Box” from the More Maths Grads project. During the summer term we are planning for small groups of trainees to prepare portable rolling programmes of activities, which we can offer to schools in our Partnership for half days, or even full days. The programmes will be specifically designed to meet the needs of the individual schools and their pupils.

If you would like to be involved in this please contact Ann on ann.gannon@york.ac.uk

ICT in MFL

Suzi Bewell has recently published an article in SecEd www.sec-ed.com. The article looks at using free Web2.0 tools and Apps both within the MFL classroom and to support homework. The article provides a list of useful web links to resources.

New Science Publication

Ian Abrahams and Chris Otter have developed resources for using drama as a learning and teaching tool for KS3 and KS4 science. Working in partnership with Sherburn High School mentor Mike Pringle and Ryedale School mentor John Hogg, and their pupils, the activities were trialled prior to inclusion in the newly published book, Performing Science: Teaching Chemistry, Physics and Biology Through Drama, from Continuum. Many of our mentors have signed up to be involved in a future research project in this area of drama and science. Any mentors interested in this project can find out more by contacting Ian on ian.abrahams@york.ac.uk

TDA ICT project

We have been awarded a TDA ICT project for 2012-13. We aim to work with three schools: Huntington, Fulford and Lady Lumley’s. The aim of the project is for excellent classroom practitioners to work collaboratively with trainees.

PGCE Panto!

January 16th saw the York secondary PGCE cohort at Fulford school working with our Gifted and Talented Year 9 MFL pupils. Trainees used their creativity and flair in a day designed to inspire our linguists of the future and allow trainees to try out techniques for teaching able students at Fulford School. A range of activities, from learning how to ride a surf board in Spanish to describing disgusting diseases in French, was carried out in target language. Pupils were stretched and challenged throughout the afternoon in order to carry out these transactional activities. Giving pupils a real reason to learn a language, along with a realistic and meaningful context in which to put their MFL learning, served to make an extremely successful session and one which the pupils will remember for a long time. The Year 9 pupils were taking their GCSE options the week after the session, so what better time to remind them of the fun and creativity that can be had in learning modern foreign languages, especially when delivered by young, interesting and vibrant trainees?

The highlight of the day was the pantomime ‘Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs’ delivered in Spanish! Pupils watched and participated in a very professional performance, with audience interaction and participation, in a language that they have never studied before. The characters and actors delivered a perfect performance, which engaged the pupils throughout – if teaching a class is a performance, this performance was rated “outstanding” by the inspector!

http://tinyurl.com/MFLSpPanto

Mark Richardson, Fulford School
What’s going on!

Summer Term School-University events:

Holocaust Event
The Institute of Education (London) Holocaust Education team will be working with trainees on Wednesday 23 May 2012. This is a whole day CPD event that focuses on how to teach the Holocaust. We are offering a limited number of free places to mentors from within the Partnership. Please contact Paula on paula.mountford@york.ac.uk if you would like to book a place on this CPD event.

Easingwold School RE and History event
Di Illingworth the Professional Tutor and History Mentor at Easingwold School is planning to work with the History trainees to design, deliver and evaluate a joint RE/History event for Year 9 students focusing on the Holocaust. This event will be led by trainees on Thursday 28 June 2012.

Year 13 History Skills workshop at Harrogate Grammar School
History trainees will be working with Robin Ruston, History mentor at Harrogate Grammar to plan, design and deliver a series of workshops focusing on key transition skills from AS to A2 history.

STEM work with Skipton School
Maths and Science trainees will be working on a STEM project with Year 7 girls at Skipton School. Ann and Chris will share details of this work at summer mentor meetings.

New Standards for Teachers
As you are aware a new set of Standards for Teachers will be introduced in September 2012. The present cohort of trainees will complete their training for QTS against the ‘old’ Standards and will begin their NQT year working under the new Standards for Teachers. The Partnership Forum in both March and July will focus on the new Standards and the documentation will be shared with colleagues at the July Mentor meetings. On 25 June 2012 Gail Naish, Assistant Headteacher at Huntington School will be leading a WSI session for all trainees preparing for the NQT year. You can look at the new Standards for Teachers by using the following link:
http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/t/teachers%20standards%20from%20september%202012.pdf

Science and English
Science and English trainees will be collaborating on a project based on work done by Glaxo Smith Kline focusing on the Olympics and working with pupils from Partnership schools. Chris and Catherine will share findings from this project with mentors at the summer meetings.

Science and MFL
Science and MFL trainees will be collaborating on a project focusing on producing a range of classroom resources to support science teaching through a second language. Chris and Suzi will share findings from this project with mentors at the summer meeting.

EAL - English and MFL
English and MFL trainees will be working on an event to be held at the University for EAL learners from Partnership schools.

Professional Enrichment updates
We are offering the opportunity for schools, museums and other educational settings to plan with us bespoke Professional Enrichment opportunities for individuals or groups of trainees. Professional Enrichment is between: 29-31 May 2012 and 11-15 June 2012 (8 days). We are already in negotiation with the new Sweet Story Museum in York, the National Railway Museum, Applefields School, Millthorpe, and Harrogate Grammar School. If you have an idea for PE please contact us.

ISSP
This year several PGCE students are working alongside staff from York schools to deliver the ISSP masterclasses. The York Independent State School Partnership (ISSP) has run masterclasses for able and interested students since March 2007. This year the masterclasses are taking place on Saturdays 3 and 10 March and trainees are working in a range of classes, for example with Year 7s and 8s, trying to work out where York’s missing amphitheatre may have been and with older students working with students from Yekaterinburg, Russia on a project to solve civic problems.

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