



WELCOME

And so another academic year begins! Nothing in education ever stays still, and this year is no exception. There has been a slight change to our teaching school hub remit, as we no longer have a formal strategic role in ITT, but we still very much see it as part of our responsibility to support and promote teaching as a profession. We are delighted to be an ITE hub for Reading University Institute of Education and to be recruiting trainees in our local Slough area.



BERKSHIRE

Newsletter Autumn Edition 2025



Janet Roberts
Director

janetroberts@lgs.slough.sch.uk



We have continued to enjoy high levels of engagement and support from our schools, with approximately **80% of schools** working with us in some capacity. The feedback from the "School Leader Satisfaction Survey" at the end of the summer term showed that schools valued the programmes we deliver and the support we provide. **90% of respondents** completely agreed with the statement "I have been able to access professional development relevant to my setting's needs and development goals" and **66%** rated the training as excellent, with **33%** rating it good. It isn't just about the numbers though – qualitative feedback from school leaders show that schools appreciate our approach:

*"It is very much a partnership focused on **collaboration** and **sharing ideas**."*

*"The staff at TSH were **incredibly helpful** in getting me and the school **set up** at the start of the academic year."*

*"The TSH has **supported** many of our staff with their **CPD** needs. They have always been a supportive and knowledgeable training partner with **excellent communication**."*

*"Staff are always willing to **help in any way they can** and go **above and beyond** to **support schools and staff**."*

We hope that the year has started well for you all and look forward to working with you over the coming months.

 www.tshberkshire.org

 01753 598300

 tshberkshire@lgs.slough.sch.uk



Slough ITE Partnership

As **Slough ITE Partnership**, we successfully recruited **twelve** trainee teachers for this academic year. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting them all again in our induction session back in the summer. The trainees were all excited and had lots of questions that we were able to answer for them so they felt equipped for their September start. They have now begun their courses with our **Lead Partner, the University of Reading** and are well embedded in our **partnership schools** (primary and secondary) all of which are in Slough. As part of our **ongoing duty of care** we have been in touch with both the trainees and their mentors. Feedback from them has been **extremely positive**, mentors say the trainees are **progressing well** and trainees feel **well supported** by their placement school and the University of Reading.

It's so important for the **future of Slough's young people** that we **continue to develop** sufficient well trained teachers who want to follow their careers within Slough schools. We would like to thank our **14 partner schools** (8 secondary and 6 primary) for their **ongoing support** with promoting Slough ITE Partnership, their part in **our interview process** and **all the mentors within those schools** who do such an **important job** in helping our trainees become **excellent teaching practitioners**.

We have already had some **strong applications** from potential trainees for **September 2026** and have started the interview cycle for the year. We hope to add to this number having attended the **DfE's Get Into Teaching event** in London this November - we attended 2 of these events last year and had a good number of enquiries as a result.

In order to **encourage potential applicants** to ITE in Slough we are once again **advertising and managing Get School Experience Days** on behalf of **5 of our schools**. We started doing this last year and had a **huge number of applicants**. We hope that by continuing to do this we can take **much of the pressure away from schools** with regard to the administration of the process so they can just focus on **providing the successful applicants** with a good experience.



Helen Jonas
ITT Relationships Manager
helenjonas@tshberkshire.org



»» ITT Continued...

Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship (PGTA)

Exciting news! - Both our Lead Partners have started
Postgraduate Teacher Apprenticeships :-



The IoE University of Reading have started their new Post Graduate Teacher Apprenticeships (PGTA)! click [here](#) to find out more.

For further information about the PGTA and also the University of Reading's Children's Development and Learning (Continued CPD courses) click [here](#).

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead SCITT have also started their new Post Graduate Teacher Apprenticeships! click [here](#) to find out more...



**Click [here](#) for
further
information
about
Apprenticeships**



EARLY CAREER TEACHER ENTITLEMENT (ECTE)

“The scenarios were very useful and relevant, and it was good to have lots of discussion time.”

(ECT MENTOR)



“The programme is well structured with a good balance of training and self-directed study which takes into account teacher workload and expectations of time.”

(ECT)

September 2025 marked a change in the training programme for ECTs, with new terminology! Providers now have to base their training programmes on the [ITTECF](#), and this has meant some **changes to content and materials**. We ran f2f induction conferences for our new year 1 ECTs, and we were delighted with almost **100% attendance** so **thank you to schools** for releasing ECTs which isn't always easy, especially at the start of the school year. The ECTs really valued the opportunity to learn about the programme and to meet their peers and start to form those networks which will be an important source of support and development for them over the next two years.



EARLY CAREER TEACHER ENTITLEMENT

“The sessions were very informative and a clear structure of what needs to be done was given.”

(ECTE) Continued...

“It was great to meet and discuss themes/scenarios with other mentors.”

(ECT MENTOR)



“It was very reassuring and helpful to consolidate our understanding.”

(ECT MENTOR)



One other major change was to the mentor training programme, which is now one year not two, for those mentors starting this September (although they continue to mentor their ECT for two years.) We ran two full f2f days of mentor training, attended by around 150 mentors in total. It was great to have such good attendance and see such a positive attitude from the mentors – our ECTs are in very good hands!

“It was great to meet and discuss themes/scenarios with other mentors.”

(ECT MENTOR)

Please have a look at our updated [ECTE](#) website page with all the information about the changes to induction. There is also a sub-page where you can find all our **“Guides and support Materials for Schools”**, as well as a FAQs section, so do have a look. This includes a presentation for colleagues new to the role of induction tutor.



EARLY CAREER TEACHER ENTITLEMENT (ECTE) Continued...



“The Practitioner Inquiry is an excellent way for me to further my teaching.”

(ECT)

“As an ECT, I find the updates to my existing knowledge and the real-life examples provided especially valuable, as they relate to what I encounter in the classroom every day. This helps me feel better prepared.”

(ECT)



“I feel supported and able to share ideas, I find it really helpful when we have the face-to-face meetings as it is lovely to hear how other ECTS are getting on and their experiences from which I get ideas of what I could try in class myself.”

(ECT)



“The in-person sessions have been valuable for networking and sharing ideas. They provide opportunities to collaborate with peers, exchange insights, and build connections that foster growth and enhance learning experiences.”

(ECT)



»»» **Appropriate Body**

We are now into the second year of being totally responsible for Appropriate Body services. Our team of local leads are now well established, and we currently have **778 ECTs** registered for induction with us. We have **updated our handbooks** which are all on ECT Manager and also on our website [here](#). This includes an "AB Guide" which contains key information from the statutory guidance and also an overview of the year with key dates and deadlines, and answers to common queries. There is also an updated guide to writing end of term reports for induction tutors, and exemplar materials. **The deadline for submitting Autumn term reports for ECTs registered with our Appropriate Body is Friday 5th December.**



For new ECTs who were unable to attend our online welcome meeting in October, you can see a recording of the session [here](#).



NPQ

It's hard to believe that we are currently onboarding cohort 9 of NPQ participants! Over the **last 4 years** we have worked with over **300 colleagues** on their NPQs and couldn't be prouder than when we hear comments like this:

“This course is a fantastic opportunity for professional development, inspiring me both personally and professionally. It is not only helping me grow as an educator but is also making a real impact on the children I work with, improving their learning experiences and outcomes.”

NPQLTD Participant

We love partnering with UCL because it is the impact in school, on young people, that we are constantly reminded to try and measure and optimise.

“During 24-25 I held an acting headteacher post for 5 months. This program helped me immensely in thinking strategically and widely. It also helped me understand areas I had not previously had experience with, e.g. governance and finance.”

NPQH Participant



Jenny Evans
Deputy Director

jevans@willink.w-berks.sch.uk

At the end of each programme it is always inspiring to hear what participants have done for their implementation projects, ensuring **'knowledge activation'**. We do encourage Head Teachers to think carefully about the **strategic use** of implementation projects to ensure **schools are getting the most out** of these qualifications as well as being able to **celebrate the positive impact** on colleagues' careers.



NPQ Continued...

We will discuss this and other finer details in the heads' briefing which will take place on **2nd Dec, 4-4.30pm** and of course participants are dependent on the support of their mentors whom we hope to brief on **15th Jan, 4-4.30pm**.



This year sees the move to **only one cohort per year** so do get in touch **immediately** if you have colleagues who wish to undertake NPQs during this academic year (**the deadline for applications is November 14th**). The next opportunity will be next year. The NPQH and the (mandatory) NPQSENCO **remain fully funded** while **scholarship funding** is available for **eligible schools for the rest of the suite**.



“Many thanks to the organisers of this course. They were exceptional. Also, by having seminars, it has been lovely to develop a network across other schools in the area.”

NPQLTD Participant

We hope to deliver the **NPQH, NPQSL, NPQSENCO, NPQEYL, combined specialist NPQ programmes (LTD, LBC and LT)** and the **NPQLPM. The NPQEL and NPQLL** can be undertaken centrally with UCL and there is an Early Headship Coaching offer.

Do get in touch with any queries.

“I was promoted internally to a role where I can now use my leadership skills acquired on the course to have whole school impact on teaching and learning standards.” **NPQSL Participant**

Finally, we are really pleased to be planning our **second alumni event**. We know from feedback that colleagues really **value the network they build** and the **evidence-based approach** to exploring **issues in education**, so that is exactly what this event will offer. We hope to see many of **our alumni on Nov 25th**, including those who have just **completed assessments in September and October** to whom we offer our **best wishes**.



UCL in MA EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP - BURSARY AVAILABLE

UCL are excited to launch the second round of the [Postgraduate Leadership Bursary Scheme](#), a special opportunity for [anyone in a leadership role](#), who is currently actively working with one of their Delivery Partners, delivering to or supporting participants on our Early Career Teacher or National Professional Qualification programmes. If you are a [mentor, induction tutor, facilitator or headteacher](#), actively [working with us on one of our programmes](#) (ECF or NPQ), you are eligible to apply.

UCL are offering [75% funding](#) to a number of successful candidates to do a [master's degree in educational leadership](#) and is an opportunity that UCL, as the only university Lead Provider, are thrilled to be in a position to offer you.

Please note that the [application deadline](#) is **24th April 2026** for September 2026 start. Successful applicants will be notified by **15th May 2026**.



[Click to watch a promotional video](#)
[Click to access the flyer](#) (with a link to the application form).



Wider Professional Development



Click [here](#) for everything on offer from Whiteknights English Hub. Click [here](#) for the latest information from Whiteknights English Hub.



Click [here](#) for everything on offer from the BBO Maths Hub. Click [here](#) to find out about the latest information from BBO Maths Hub.



Find out about everything that Mobius Maths Hub has to offer [here](#). Click [here](#) to find out about the latest information from Mobius Maths Hub.



Find out about everything that Whole School Send has to offer [here](#). Click [here](#) to find out about their London Regional Conference and [here](#) for their free CPD -AUTISM AWARENESS AND INCLUSION.

! **TSH Berkshire are proud to be supporting...**

The MTPT Project mtpt.org.uk - the UK's charity for parent-teachers (both maternity and paternity teachers).



A full range of support from The MTPT Project is available, including the Winter Cohort; [Life Friendly Leadership programme](#); [Return to Work workshops and Parental Leave Group coaching programme](#) (amongst others). Do [stay tuned](#) on our social media channels (below) to stay informed about everything else that MTPT Project has to offer in the new year. Click [here](#) to find out the about the latest information from The MTPT Project.



#TSHBerkshire
#WeAreHereToSupportYou