



BERKSHIRE

Newsletter Spring Edition 2026


WELCOME

As we move into March it is very welcome to see the days getting longer with some more hints of Spring.

Our participants continue to make progress through the various programmes that they are engaged in. It has been lovely to **celebrate the successes of our NPQ cohorts** who janetroberts@lgs.slough.sch.uk have received their results this term, and with the next assessment window coming up for both leadership and specialist participants after Easter, we wish them luck!

Janet Roberts
Director



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Slough ITE Partnership

This term has seen our current cohort of trainees **continue to develop** into **strong teaching practitioners**. They have moved on to either their Placement B (Secondary) or Contrasting Placement (Primary). Primary trainees will be back at their main school in April. I have **thoroughly enjoyed** getting to know **our schools and their ITT Leads** more and have been made to feel **very welcome** when visiting - what **incredible work** goes on!

Our **Primary trainees** have gained from not only the **excellent PGCE with QTS course** but also some **fantastic Professional Studies** sessions led by our **partnership schools**.

Topics were: Managing workload and wellbeing (Ryvers School); Working with children learning English as an additional Language (St Mary's Primary) and Teaching in faith-based schools (Iqra Primary).

We have also recruited and had our offers accepted by **eight soon-to-be-trainees** for next academic year and will **continue to recruit** until the **end of May**. We attended the recruitment event at **Reading University's Institute of Education** along with many other Berkshire recruiting hubs this term.



Helen Jonas
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»» ITT Continued...



University of
Reading



The Institute of Education (IoE) University of Reading, offers **Postgraduate Teacher Apprenticeships** and you can find out more [here](#).



You can invest in yourself and your professional practice with The University of Reading's **MA Education**.

This programme is designed for **educational professionals** who wish to **develop** their practice, **deepen** their understanding of education, or **rethink** their professional direction. A **variety** of **study routes** are available, **including part-time options**, enabling students to **combine study** with **professional** and **personal commitments**. Find out more about this programme [here](#).

The IoE University of Reading is offering an open-access online professional course. **Anti-racist Teaching in Schools** is a free, open-access online course for **teachers** and **school professionals** who wish to develop **confident, inclusive** and **anti-racist practice**. Click [here](#) to find out more.



ITT Continued...



The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead SCITT offers bespoke training with **individual** and **personalised** support to graduates and has access to a wide range of high-quality trainers. You can apply for **2026-27** teacher training courses, starting in September, click [here](#) to find out more.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD **BSU BATH SPA UNIVERSITY**

Train to Teach in Windsor & Maidenhead

RBWM SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training)

Providing Exceptional Local Teacher Training Since 2002

We offer a high-quality, bespoke training experience with personalised support. We are proud of our success: **100% of our trainees** have achieved Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and gained employment.

Partnership with Bath Spa University
All trainees gain a **Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)** worth 60 Master's credits alongside their QTS.

Choose Your Pathway

- 1. Postgraduate Fee-Funded (Primary or Secondary)**
 - **Primary:** ages 3-7 or 5-11.
 - **Secondary:** ages 11-16 or 14-18 across a wide range of subjects.
 - **Structure:** September to July. 4 days a week in a lead school / 1 day in central training. 6-week second placement in a contrasting school environment.
 - **Funding:** Training costs of **£8,000** are covered by Student Finance.
- 2. Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship**
 - **Salaried Route:** A 1-year employment program for those with **considerable school experience** (e.g. HLTAs or TAs with 3+ years experience).
 - **Funding:** Training costs of £8,000 are covered by the apprenticeship levy.

Why Train With Us?

- **Local Expertise:** Training is delivered by advisers and leading practitioners.
- **Diverse Settings:** A wide variety of schools, including nursery, primary, secondary, and middle schools.
- **Financial Support:** Bursaries or scholarships of up to £31,000 may be available for fee-funded trainees. See: [Teacher Training Funding](#)

Entry Requirements

- Degree: UK Honours degree (2:2 or above).
- GCSEs: Grade 4 (C) or above in English and Maths (plus Science for Primary).
- Overseas qualifications must be verified by UK ENIC (see [UK ENIC website](#))
- Equivalency tests can be gained through the following provider: [Equivalency Testing](#).

How to Apply

- Apply through the Government's Apply for Teacher Training service ([Apply for Teacher Training](#))

Useful Links
[RBWM SCITT website](#) [Bath Spa University](#) [Apply for Teacher Training](#)
[Get Into Teaching](#) [Student Finance](#)

Contact
claire.murray@achievingforchildren.org.uk
07710 913454

Follow us @rbwm_SCITT

DOWNLOAD





EARLY CAREER TEACHER PROGRAMME (ECTP)

We continue to be pleased with the changes to the new Early Career Training Programme (ECTP) and there has been a fantastic level of engagement from our ECTs with **excellent attendance at training sessions**.

“I have found the in-person sessions and mentor meetings have been especially effective, as I get so much out of having conversations with my peers and mentor, comparing strategies and stories.” (ECT)



“I feel that the inquiries, this year have really allowed me to focus on the things I would like to improve upon individually, as well as within our school. They have also provided plentiful time towards reflection of my own practice and our School Development Plan.” (ECT)



“Very well organised. All the people are true professionals, well informed and have lots of knowledge. Information given and provided is relevant, applicable and reflects our experiences, it also encourages us to reflect on our practice and share with other ECTs.” (ECT)

“I have found the course to be really helpful. It has allowed me time to reflect on what I have learnt and how I can improve as a teacher. My mentor sessions are excellent, and I am finding the course to be a real help in my first teaching role.” (ECT)

EARLY CAREER TEACHER PROGRAMME (ECTP) Continued...

“Good quality professional dialogue with colleagues and facilitators.”

(ECT MENTOR)

Our **Year 2 ECTs have now had their final facilitated session** with their cluster but we are hoping that many of them will join us at our **end of programme celebration** events in the summer term.

This term has also seen the second **f2f mentor training** session for the new one-year programme. Both mentors and facilitators have appreciated the move to face-to-face training this year, as shown in the **high attendance rates** at these sessions.

“The programme this year is very detailed and supportive of mentors as well as mentees. It provides ideas and strategies that can be used by both to support children's learning and behaviour in class.”

(ECT MENTOR)



Remember that we have a range of guides and support materials, as well as a FAQs section on our website, so do have a look [here](#).

“I've found the programme to be exceptionally well-structured, with clear, explicit guidance for each session. The support provided for mentors is equally thorough, which has made me feel confident and well-supported throughout the program thus far.”

(ECT MENTOR)



Appropriate Body



In January we held our latest **“Appropriate Body Review Panel”**. Our panel is made up of senior leaders from our schools, and also the AB lead from another Teaching School Hub. This acts as an extra level of Quality Assurance for us as panel members to provide a **critical, external view on our processes** which is helpful in reviewing our decisions. We hope it is also useful for our school colleagues, to better understand the induction process. Two colleagues who attended the panel subsequently **volunteered to deliver** a section of our Spring term induction tutor briefing – great to see our schools supporting each other!



NPQ

It has been a delight to onboard our **cohort 9** colleagues since last writing. They have made a good start and module 1 is well underway. We have a **significant number of participants** undertaking NPQH and NPQSENCO, and **healthy groups** of NPQSL and combined LTD, LBC and LT. We were sorry not to be able to run NPQLPM this time around but really pleased to offer NPQEYL again, in partnership with ASTRA.

“Great support from TSH Berkshire.” **NPQLT Participant**



“Thank you so much for all of your support during the course and the assessment process!” **NPQSL Participant**

If colleagues are already considering taking qualifications in the near future, the DfE have a sign up for registration updates, click [here](#). We believe they will open registration in June for the next cohort.



Jenny Evans
Deputy Director
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»» NPQ CONTINUED...

We would like to **congratulate** our cohort 6 leadership and cohort 7 specialist colleagues who successfully completed their summative assessment in the Autumn and would remind colleagues that we now run alumni events every term and look forward to seeing alumni at one of those events in the future. Colleagues **"enjoy the opportunities for discussion during the sessions"**, and the chance to **"connect with the NPQ community and to keep abreast of new initiatives in the education sector,"** which is exactly the aim. We were very grateful to be joined by Antonia Spinks at our last session, who delivered a thought provoking session on autonomy vs conformity, and we are excited to hear from Zahara Chowdhury on **'The Curious Power of Reverse Mentoring in Organisational Culture'** in our next session. Do get in touch if anyone in your organisation would like further details.



As cohort 7 leadership and cohort 8 specialist **prepare for assessment in April** we wish them well and offer **our thanks** to both their mentors and their schools for **supporting them and partnering with us**. It continues to be **our privilege** to support so many local colleagues with their leadership development.



“*As a passionate educator, I loved learning the newest pedagogical theories, reading articles/ new research. I felt empowered that what I feel ought to be done in schools is backed by the relevant research.*” **NPQLT Participant**

Wider Professional Development



Click [here](#) for the latest information and free CPD from Whiteknights English Hub. Click [here](#) to visit their website.



Click [here](#) to find out about the latest information from BBO Maths Hub. Click [here](#) to visit their website.



Click [here](#) to find out about the latest information from Mobius Maths Hub. Visit their website [here](#).



Fantastic news! **Whole School SEND** has been granted one further year of their contract...

Whole School SEND has a new suite of Autism online units, click [here](#) → to find out more.

Click [here](#) to visit their website.



Wider Professional Development Cont.



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...

! You can sign up to the MTPT Project's fortnightly bulletin to get your Promo code for these programmes [here](#).

Click **below** to find out about everything that MTPT Project has to offer...

Cradle to Classroom
a programme of parental transition support
For teachers, leaders and support staff with children aged 5 or younger

Parental Leave group coaching | Return to Work workshops | Sustain and Grow group coaching

"I gained a lot from listening to the responses of other participants and have got a lot more out of the group coaching that I have when I have been by myself."

Parental Leave Group Coaching
For teachers, leaders and support staff currently on maternity, adoption or shared parental leave

Fully-funded for state school colleagues.
Cohorts running throughout the academic year.

Funded in the South East by: Chiltern, OTSA, education union, TSH, ASTRA

"This session really helped me consider what I need to think about and ask for when I return. So informative."

Return to Work Workshops
For teachers, leaders and support staff returning from maternity, adoption or shared parental leave

Fully-funded for state school colleagues.
Workshops running throughout the academic year.

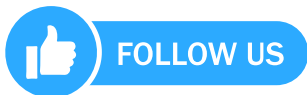
Funded in the South East by: Chiltern, TSH, education union, ASTRA, OTSA

"It allowed me to work with some other incredible parents and learn different techniques to manage the balance between work and being a mum."

Sustain and Grow Group Coaching
For teachers, leaders and support staff with children aged 5 or younger.

Fully-funded for state school colleagues.
Cohorts running throughout the academic year.

Funded in the South East by: Chiltern, Alban Education, OTSA, TSH, education union, ASTRA



Do stay tuned on our social media channels to stay informed about everything else that MTPT Project has to offer. Click [here](#) to find out the about all the latest information from The MTPT Project. Click [here](#) to visit their website



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#WeAreHereToSupportYou