TSH BERKSHIRE

Newsletter Autumn Edition 2026



WELCOME

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year. As ever, the new year brings changes, with our ECTs beginning the revised year 2 of the Early Career Training Programme (ECTP), and the first iteration of the Excellence in Reception Teaching starting this term. No doubt there have also been various changes in your own settings that you have had to adapt to this year.



Janet Roberts
Director
janetroberts@lgs.slough.sch.uk

What remains the same are the strong partnerships that we have built with schools, colleges and other settings who work with us. A total of **292 schools, colleges and nurseries** within Berkshire have had participants on our programmes this year, and there are a further **107 schools** outside the area engaging with us. We are required by the DfE to conduct a **"School Leader Satisfaction Survey"** each year and we were pleased to see the positive feedback from heads – **96% completely agreed** with the statement **"I would recommend this hub to another school"** and the additional comments reflect the ethos and approach that we wanted to achieve:

"It is a pleasure to work with TSH Berkshire. Communication is clear and effective; information given is relevant and any questions or queries are answered in good time. TSH Berkshire is collaborative, asking for and acting upon the feedback given. We look forward to continuing to work with TSH Berkshire."

"The support provided by the TSH Hub has been outstanding. Queries are always handled quickly, with a high level of detail and informative guidance that makes navigating processes straightforward. The high quality of communication and efficiency from the team has been greatly appreciated."

We know things aren't perfect, and there are things that we can improve, and we always welcome suggestions if there are other ways that we can support you.

www.tshberkshire.org
01753 598300
tshberkshire@lgs.slough.sch.uk

ITT

TSH: BERKSHIRE ITE PARTNERSHIP — Slough — In partnership with the Institute of Education — University of Reading

Slough ITE Partnership

Once again, we have a **super cohort** of primary and secondary trainees undertaking their **PGCEs with Reading University** this year. **Slough ITE Partnership** is **a recruiting Lead Partner** for the University and last year we recruited **5 secondary and 6 primary trainees** (Reading Partnership Teachers) to the course which started in **September 2026**. There are now **16 schools within Slough in the Partnership** (8 primary and 8 secondary); we are **delighted** to have welcomed **Penn Wood, Willow and Pippins** as **new members** this year.



DOWNLOAD



Helen Jonas
ITT Relationships Manager
helenjonas@tshberkshire.org

Several of our schools **regularly join** our **interview panels** and **many host RPTs** recruited by us for **their placements** (capacity allowing). Our overarching aim is to **'future proof'** staffing in **Slough's schools** by attracting **potential candidates** who wish specifically to **train in their local area of Slough** – once qualified we hope they are more likely to **gain employment in our schools**.

ITT Continued...

Slough ITE Partnership

We had **overwhelmingly positive feedback** from last year's recruits about **their experiences interviewing with us** and **training in our schools**. Such as:

"I remember it as one of the best interviews I have had. The panel members were very supportive and professional, which made the experience both positive and memorable. I would not change anything." and

"I have had a positive experience working with the University of Reading and my placement school. The support and guidance provided by both have helped me to develop my teaching practice and confidence in the classroom."



This year we intend **increasing opportunities for RPTS** to **share their experiences** as they go through the year and **are developing our ability** to **place RPTs in schools as conveniently positioned as possible** for them. Candidates can **apply to us for postgraduate ITE** via the **DfE's Find and Apply service** below.

GOV·UK



Helen Jonas
ITT Relationships Manager
helenjonas@tshberkshire.org



If you have any **non-teaching, graduate staff members** who may **wish to train with us** please do **put them in touch** - we would be **delighted** to **guide them through the process**.

ITT Continued...

Slough ITE Partnership

Finally, for those of you across the **whole of Berkshire** who work with the **Reading University ITE Programme**, you will remember that we told you in last term's newsletter about the **Reading Educators in Partnership Programme**. This Programme is **now up and running**, please do note that it is open to **all staff within your school**, not just those involved in ITE.



Helen Jonas
ITT Relationships Manager
helenjonas@tshberkshire.org

Please click **here** to find out more about this fantastic opportunity. To view the Reading Educators in Partnership staff list, click **here**. If you are interested, you can complete a request form **here**.



ITT Continued...

Work with The University of Reading:

Host a trainee teacher on placement...



Support the next generation of teachers while benefiting your school community.

The University of Reading are inviting **primary schools** to host their **first-year BA Primary Education (QTS) students** for **Key Stage 1 placements** during the **2026–27 academic year**. Hosting a trainee provides an **opportunity to contribute** to the **development of future teachers**, bring **fresh perspectives** into the classroom and **build professional relationships** with the **University of Reading**. Click here to find out more.



Mental Health in Education Conference: From awareness to action

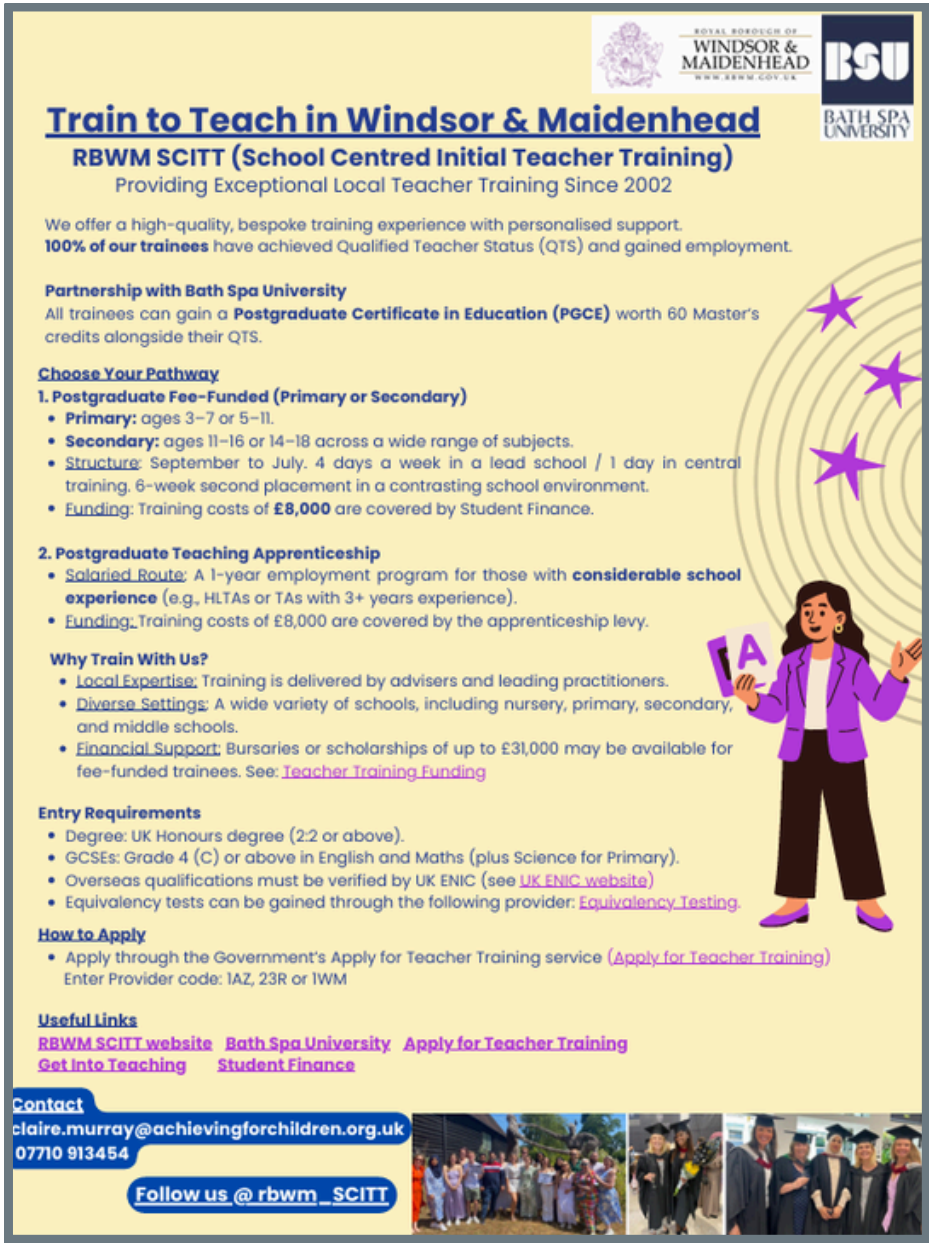
Save the date!
Thursday 19 November 2026 (1:30–4:30pm)
London Road campus, University of Reading
£30 per attendee

Led by the **Institute of Education** and the **Charlie Waller Institute**, this second annual conference will bring together **teachers** and **school leaders** to explore **research-informed approaches** and **practical strategies** to **support pupils' mental wellbeing**. Click here to find out more.

Click here for all of the events hosted by The University of Reading

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 teacher training courses, click **here** to find out more.



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.
100% of our trainees have achieved Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and gained employment.

Partnership with Bath Spa University
All trainees can 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)
  Enter Provider code: 1AZ, 23R or 1WM

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)

Our year 1 and year 2 ECTs are now well into their programmes. The **year 1 f2f conferences** were again well attended, as was the **mentor training day in September**, so thank you to schools for releasing colleagues. The benefit to both mentors and ECTs of meeting f2f to discuss and share practice is invaluable.





"I really enjoy the free-flowing mentor meetings - we have a basis of what to talk about but we can actually communicate as two professionals, rather than just trying to tick boxes." **(ECT)**

"I absolutely enjoyed the presentation. All the lecturers were lovely.... The practical approach was great!" **(ECT MENTOR)**



"It was very engaging, lovely food! It felt absolutely worth my time. Thank you!" **(ECT MENTOR)**



"There were clear networking/discussion opportunities." **(ECT MENTOR)**

"I really like the group discussions (both online and f2f) as this provides opportunities to discuss any challenges or areas of strength with other ECT's." **(ECT)**

EARLY CAREER TEACHER PROGRAMME (ECTP) Continued...



"The focus on evidence-informed strategies (e.g. retrieval practice, modelling, scaffolding) has strengthened my lesson planning and classroom decision-making. Mentor meetings linked to the programme have made professional discussions more focused and impactful."
(ECT)

"The session was informative in empowering the ECT – teaching them to be reflective. Thank you!"
(ECT MENTOR)

Please have a look at our ECTE website page with all the information about our training programme. There is also a sub-page where you can find all our "Guides and support Materials for Schools", as well as an updated FAQs section, so do have a look. This includes a presentation for colleagues new to the role of induction tutor and an overview of the year.



"The programme is excellent. I like the independent study sessions, especially the case studies as I experience these scenarios most of the time in my teaching practice." **(ECT)**

"The programme is clearly structured and provides a consistent rhythm of learning through independent study, mentor meetings and facilitated sessions." **(ECT)**

APPROPRIATE BODY

For those of you who work with us on the Appropriate Body side of induction, we have updated **our handbooks** which are all on ECT Manager and also on our website **here.** The "AB Guide" now includes a section on **supporting neurodivergent ECTs**, although a lot of the challenges and suggested strategies are common to many beginner teachers. There is also an **overview of the year** and extracts from the statutory guidance which cover many common queries. We have updated our 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 4th 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

As we embark on the beginning of another **NPQ season** with **cohort 10** waiting in the wings, we have a great opportunity to **look back** and **celebrate** the **fantastic results** achieved by participants **this summer**. It is quite **staggering** to acknowledge the **success** of a **combined 95 participants** across the **leadership suite in cohort 7** and to reflect upon the **impact** these colleagues will go on to have on the lives of **hundreds of other colleagues** and **thousands of students**. In particular, with this being the **first time** the **NPQSENCO** has been **assessed**, we wonder how **57 newly qualified SENCOs** will effect **change across the sector**...

100%

Our **combined LT/LBC/LTD** group had a **100% success rate**, and we would **urge schools** to go on thinking about **how they use the specialist NPQs**. The **learning and development** amongst these colleagues is **considerable** and the investment of **time and energy** is **hugely worthwhile**. At our **consolidation conference** this term we enjoyed hearing some **success stories** and **reflections** from our **cohort 9 specialists** and **wish them well** in their November assessment.

> *"I feel I have taken the time out to reexamine my own practice to better lead a team by example with the backing of expert knowledge. I have built my confidence and vocabulary around classroom practice, adaptive teaching, and supporting student outcomes. Further, I feel I can go to the research and expert sources on best practice in education and better see how they can support my teaching, my leadership and my department's practice."* **(NPQ Participant)**



Jenny Evans
Deputy Director
jevans@willink.w-berks.sch.uk

Thank you!

As ever, we remain **hugely grateful** to our **highly skilled team of facilitators**, particularly those who go on **juggling school life** with **facilitation** and **enrich the professional lives** of so many through their **willingness to share** their **time and experiences**.

Now it's curtain up for **cohort 10!**

Excellence in Reception Teaching Programme



We are **so pleased** to have been **chosen** to **partner with UCL** in the **delivery** of the new **'Excellence in Reception Teaching'** programme. Over a series of **4 Peer Learning Group sessions** participants will **explore best practice** with our **two expert facilitators** and will have access to a **wealth of resources** on **UCL's learning platform** allowing them to **reflect on their practice** and **develop their understanding of research** in a **supported environment**.

We look forward to hearing some **positive testimonials** from those **just embarking** on the programme.

IMPORTANT

This pilot has been rolled out at **astonishing speed** so if you blinked you may have missed it - but don't worry as the **application window** for the **spring cohort** is now **open**. To find out more information, see the flyer from UCL **here**.

NEW DfE SEND AND INCLUSION TRAINING MATERIALS

Department for Education

NOW AVAILABLE



INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

The Department for Education has published the first set of **SEND In-House Training Materials** to support schools and post-16 settings in delivering professional development on SEND and inclusion. The training materials form part of the government's wider commitment to strengthening support for children and young people with SEND and are designed to help settings **build staff knowledge, confidence and understanding** of inclusive practice.

The free, editable materials include structured training content, facilitator guidance, practical strategies and activities for discussion and reflection. They are designed to reduce the time needed to develop training materials locally and leaders can tailor them to their setting and use them during INSET days, staff meetings, staff development days and wider professional development programmes. Developed by Ambition Institute for the DfE, the materials complement other SEND professional development opportunities, including the NPQ for SENCOs.

NEW DfE SEND AND INCLUSION TRAINING MATERIALS CONTINUED...

Department for Education

NOW AVAILABLE



This **first set of materials** covers:

- Introduction to proposed SEND reforms and inclusive teaching
- Introduction to Areas of Development
- Speech, Language and Communication Development
- Supporting guidance for leaders and facilitators

Additional training materials will be published throughout the academic year, including further Areas of Development, practical teaching resources, case studies and professional development support materials.

Find out more and access the materials:

Schools: SEND and Inclusion Training for Mainstream Schools

Post-16 settings: SEND and Inclusion Training for Post-16 Settings

In addition, a new **online Early Years training package** has been launched with Dingley's Promise. This is designed and is **freely available for all early years educators** working with children aged 0-4 to strengthen inclusive practice and better identify and support children with SEND. Available at: Early Years CPD Training - Dingley's Promise

Wider Professional Development

Click here to find out about the latest information from Whiteknights English Hub. Click here to visit their website.

Click here to find out about the latest from BBO Maths Hub. Click here to find out about the fully funded Specialist Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics (Primary Early Career Teachers) Programme 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.

Click here to find out about the latest information from Whole School SEND. 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...

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

You can sign up to the MTPT Project's fortnightly bulletin here.









Learn all about MTPT Project's **Cradle to Classroom Programme of Parental Transition Support,** you can watch their 2026-2027 information video here.

We draw your attention to join The MTPT Project's annual online Creating Family Friendly Schools Conference.

Save the dates!

Friday 29th January & Saturday 30th January 2027

from 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Don't miss out! Click here to secure your place.

Click here to find out all about what the MTPT Project's has to offer.

You can click here to visit the MTPT Project's website.



Thank you

TSH BERKSHIRE

#TSHBerkshire
#WeAreHereToSupportYou
www.tshberkshire.org

Follow us on our website www.tshberkshire.org and social media: