



## The Benefits of Choosing School Based Teacher Training with Bluecoat SCITT Alliance Nottingham

As an accredited provider of teacher training, we are committed to training **OUTSTANDING** teachers to work within the East Midlands region. From the point of receiving an application we are committed to supporting individuals through the teacher training process and into their career as a teacher.

Our comprehensive one year **School Direct Training Programme** is offered for both **Primary** and **Secondary** trainees, as well as a salaried option in certain subjects.

We offer Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) + PGCE (with 60 credits at Masters Level with Sheffield Hallam University).

Our trainees follow a school based teacher training programme and work alongside experienced teachers. Trainees are supported by expert teaching professionals and outstanding teachers to support subject specific teaching. Our training is unique in that all training is tailored to individual needs, to ensure all trainees make at least good progress against the teacher standards. Bluecoat SCITT Alliance Nottingham works in partnership with a range of schools situated in Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire to provide high quality initial teacher training.

### Our Success

Three years running 100% of our trainee teachers gained QTS

High numbers of trainees gain employment on completion within the East Midlands region, and either within our Trust or Alliance Schools



### What our Trainees say about our programme

"What a fantastic year! The SCITT course is well structured and progressively introduces trainees to the demands of the profession in preparation for a successful career in teaching. I was unquestionably supported during the year by course leaders, mentors and friends."

"All trainees are really well supported throughout their training, it is hard work but it's worth it"

"I enjoy coming together for our training day on Fridays, where we can share our experiences from our placement schools, and take away excellent advice and information that we take back into the classroom. I've made some great friends too!"

"Mentor meetings, support and guidance is constantly excellent and invaluable. SCITT team are all very supportive."

"I find it very helpful to share experiences with other SCITT trainees and I really enjoy the subject training sessions."

### What Recent Research says about School Based Training

A recent survey indicated that NQTs who had followed a school based route felt more satisfied and rated the quality of the training more highly than other routes. They also felt their training prepared them better for teaching following a school based training route.

### PARTNERSHIP

The SCITT is currently working with 20 partner schools in both the Primary and Secondary sectors.

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## OUR STRENGTHS

- Leadership of the provision is a strength, particularly the leadership of the head of the SCITT. Leaders have a clear moral purpose and an ambition to ensure that the provision best meets the needs of trainees. There is strong commitment, passion and skill to train the very best teachers and for them to be employed within the East Midlands.
- There is very strong and effective engagement of schools within the partnership, which is evident in their key role in the recruitment of trainees and in their contribution to strategic planning and strong understanding of the partnership's priorities.
- Completion and employment rates have rapidly improved in the two years since the partnership opened. Completion rates are broadly in line with the national average. Employment rates are above the national average. The provider is meeting local needs well, by providing good-quality teachers in a region where it is difficult to recruit.
- Trainees have high standards of professionalism, which are demonstrated by their high expectations of themselves and their pupils, their rigorous planning, excellent professional conduct and wider contribution to their employing schools.
- Trainees receive high-quality and tailored support in response to their emerging needs. This ensures that any trainees experiencing difficulties are quickly identified and then supported effectively.
- High-quality subject training takes place weekly. This is well planned and carefully focused so that trainees are quickly able to apply their learning and research in classroom situations.

## WHAT WILL I DO ON THE COURSE!

Our school based training means you will be based in one of our partner schools on a main placement Monday - Thursday, and treated by the school as a member of staff. On Friday trainees come together for a day's training of pedagogy and subject knowledge, following a comprehensive programme across the year. In the Spring term you will spend 6 weeks at another school, as the training must include you teaching in two schools.

The course has been carefully structured to guide you through your transformation from a skilled practitioner to a confident teacher within a practical learning environment. Your choice to begin this course was just the beginning of your journey to learn and understand how to capture the observations and curiosity of young, aspiring children.

You will understand the National Curriculum and relevant Key Stages.

### Overview

The course aims to:

- Fulfil and support the general aims of the Bluecoat SCITT Alliance Nottingham ITT Programme as set out in the submitted scheme;
- Develop competencies specific to the phase and subject which you are teaching.
- Ensure that trainees are competent professionals and effective teachers.
- Encourage an enthusiasm for education.
- Encourage trainees to challenge pupils and to meet their individual needs through personalisation.

### Who will be helping you through the year?

- Head of SCITT
- SCITT Lead Teacher
- SCITT Link Teacher
- SCITT Primary Lead
- SCITT Business Manager
- The Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning has oversight of the SCITT.

- **Subject Lead**

You will be assigned to a Subject Lead, they will help you with specific subject issues and lead the Friday PM subject sessions. They will also be visiting you in your placement schools.

- **Subject Mentor**

You will be assigned a Subject Mentor at your placement. This is an experienced teacher in your subject. They will give you an hour's 1:1 mentoring session every week. They will also be the first person you should ask when you need help.

In addition to others in the department, you will also work with colleagues in the SCITT, throughout the Academy, in learning support and the Senior Leadership Team who will be pro-active in helping you. One of the advantages of choosing ITT is that you spend a significant amount of time in schools which have been selected because they want to train new entrants to the profession to become outstanding practitioners.

### Subject Knowledge Audit

As you make progress through the course, you will need to ensure that your subject knowledge is at a good standard for each Key Stage that you teach. You have already completed a "confidence profile" of subject knowledge. This will serve as a convenient starting point from which to set initial pre-course targets. You will set subject knowledge targets each term.

This document provides structure for further development and allows you to record evidence that progress has been made. This should be reviewed regularly with both your mentor and your subject leader.

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### **What are you entitled to this year?**

- **Subject Knowledge & Pedagogy**  
You will receive a calendared session of engaged study delivered in tutorials and workshops
- Pupil shadowing.
- Teacher shadowing.
- Involvement in extra-curricular activities.
- Subject specific studies.
- University delivery days for PGCE credits in Primary/Secondary Education

### **Alternative Educational Settings**

All trainees are given the opportunity to experience alternative educational settings:

- A 6 week second placement
- Experience with pupils with challenging behaviour
- Experience with pupils for whom English is not their first language
- Experience in a school, focusing on pupils with Special Education Needs
- A primary experience for secondary trainees
- A secondary experience for primary trainees
- Experience of Sixth Form for secondary trainees

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

- You will be awarded QTS on successful completion of the course by Bluecoat SCITT Alliance
- You will be awarded a PGCE (worth 60 Masters Credits) on successful completion of the PGCE by Sheffield Hallam University<sup>1</sup>

### **How much will it cost?**

Tuition fees for School Direct Unsalariated places are £9,000

### **Is there any financial support available?**

There are bursaries and scholarships available dependent on subject and degree grade. Loans, and grants are available from the Student Loans Company

### **Will I be employed at the end of the programme?**

As part of the SCITT Programme, there is no guarantee of employment at the end of the training year. However we have an excellent employment history with trainees wishing to pursue a teaching career leaving the programme with a job offer.

### **Entry Criteria and Selection Process**

**Before you apply we would expect you to have completed or be in the process of completing the following;**

- Degree at least 2:2 or above (please contact us directly if this is not the case for you to discuss)
- GCSE grade C or above in English and Mathematics (and a Science subject for Primary)

<sup>1</sup>the PGCE is optional for trainees following the salaried route

### **Degree**

All applicants are required on entry to their teacher training course to hold a UK degree or equivalent qualification.

For primary applicants, the degree does not need to be subject specific but all other entry requirements listed below apply.

For secondary applicants this should be in, or closely related to, your proposed teaching subject. As a guideline we would expect that at least 50% of your first degree is directly relevant to the National Curriculum subject you intend to teach.

On your application form, give us the details of what you've studied at degree level and make a case for why it's relevant. We aim to look sympathetically at each application but you need to be aware that subject knowledge is an increasingly important element in the assessment of trainee teachers. Although you will have the chance to improve and, perhaps, update your subject knowledge, the course is not designed to teach the subject itself - it is designed to teach you how to teach it. You might want to consider taking action to develop your subject knowledge prior to coming on the course and there are an increasing number of specific courses being developed to support this, details of which can be obtained through the Department for Education web site.

### **GCSEs**

We do require you to hold passes in English Language, Mathematics (and a Science subject for primary applicants) at GCSE grade C or above, or an approved equivalent qualification. For applicants who cannot evidence the above an Equivalency Test will be required so we can ensure you can meet this standard.

### **Literacy and Numeracy Skills tests**

Dependent on the time of your application you are not required to have passed these before an interview HOWEVER you are strongly recommended to take these as soon as possible. All applicants with a conditional offer must have passed these prior to coming on the course.

Once you have passed your Professional Skills Tests it is valid for three years for entry to ITT programmes (and you should start a course within this period).

### **Fitness to Teach**

Admission to the course is subject to a satisfactory medical report, as you are required to meet the standards for 'Fitness to Teach'.

We have a wide range of facilities to meet the needs of students with special needs and disabilities. You are welcome to discuss any special needs or disabilities with us at any time during, or after, the application process.

### **Disclosure and Barring Service**

For all initial teacher training courses, applicants must complete forms requesting an Enhanced Disclosure from the DBS. In addition you will be required to disclose previous offences to Bluecoat Academies Trust who process the DBS checks.

### **School Experience**

Although having school experience is not a requirement for entering a teacher training programme, spending time in school and its benefits will not only confirm your interest in pursuing a teaching career, but enhance your personal statement, application and interview. School experience gives you the chance to see for yourself what it's really like to be a teacher - supporting your application and interview. We offer the chance to spend time in the classroom through our support of the School Experience Programme, as well as offering a number of Taster Weeks through the year which gives you a really comprehensive insight into life in school, as well as what to expect from your teacher training year.

#### What can you expect?

You will be provided with a comprehensive timetable of lessons to observe, as well as time in a tutor group (secondary).

Throughout the placement, you'll have the opportunity to observe teaching and to talk to teachers about day-to-day life in a school, as well as trainees and NQTs. You will get the chance to see a range of different lessons and age groups being taught. We provide you with a reflections booklet to give you a chance to reflect and record what you have seen and use this in support of your ITT application, personal statement and during the interview process.

A member of staff will support your placement, and offer help and guidance with any questions you may have.

#### How to sign up for a placement on the SEP

If you haven't already, you'll need to register with the Teaching Line before you can participate **0800 389 2500** or [www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/about-teaching/teaching-line](http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/about-teaching/teaching-line)

To sign up for a Taster Week email [itt@bluecoat.uk.com](mailto:itt@bluecoat.uk.com)

## WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- A desire to teach and work with young people
- Effective communication skills
- A commitment to work hard on the course
- Determination to succeed
- A readiness to listen and share
- A flexible approach to learning and teaching

## HOW WE SELECT OUR TRAINEES

All applications to teacher training programmes are made via [UCAS-TT](#)

### Process for the School Direct course

Bluecoat SCITT Alliance screens your application for shortlisting, and decides whether to offer you an interview. If you are offered an interview this will be at one of the alliance schools for the phase range. The interview process will include;

- giving a short presentation
- being observed in a student engagement activity
- formal interview
- a short written literacy test (a letter)
- numeracy and literacy short answer questions booklet

....as well as the opportunity to ask any questions.

If you are successful at this interview you will be offered a conditional place at your placement school. This is not necessarily the lead school.

### Your application

Your application form is looked at very carefully. In particular, once you have met the basic entry criteria we are interested in your personal statement, your qualifications and your experience.

Use the personal statement to your best advantage and tell us why you want to teach and will make a good teacher. Make sure that you have given us a clear indication of the subject content of your degree. We will also look at whether you have taken care to present your application form professionally.

### Your interview

When you come for a School Direct interview, there are likely to be other applicants being interviewed alongside you. We are keen to see that you can work collaboratively with others. The criteria we will use at interview to decide whether or not we offer you a place on the course are:

- an awareness of current educational issues;
- a realistic and positive view of schools and schooling;
- an open and enquiring mind;
- clear reasons for wanting to teach at the level for which you have applied;
- motivation and commitment to teaching pupils of all levels of ability and that they make progress;
- maturity and self-confidence;
- an appropriate level of subject knowledge in your chosen subject for secondary.

You will be interviewed by staff working in Initial Teacher Training. You may be asked to carry out certain tasks that allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and skills, individually or in groups. The letter of invitation will give you details about specific requirements or expectations.

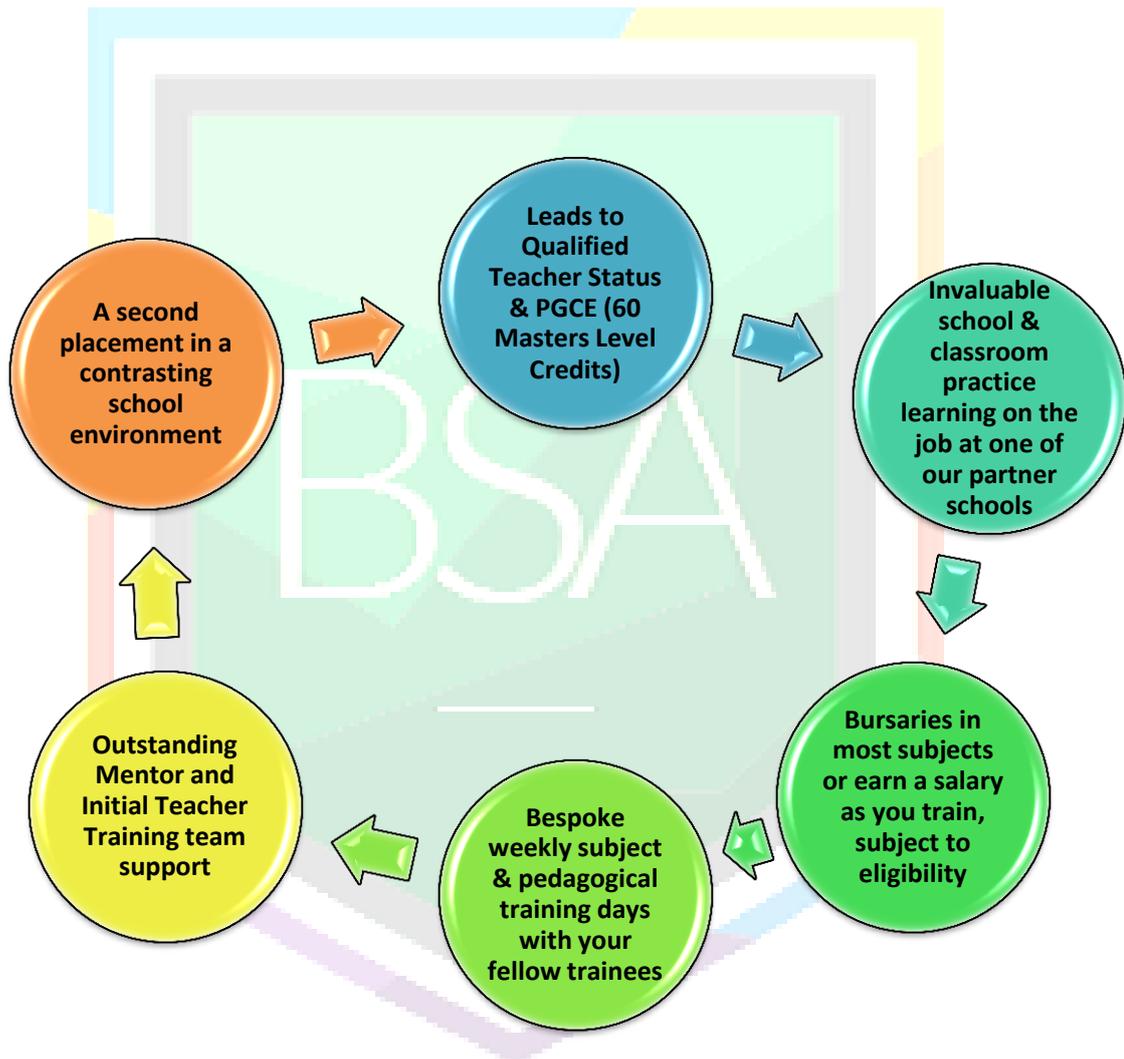
### What happens next?

We will inform you of our decision as soon as possible after your interview (via the UCAS portal). If you are given a conditional offer of a place on the School Direct course, you will receive a pack of information describing the steps you should take next. The conditional offer will become unconditional when we have received your acceptance and all the necessary clearances and documentation.

### More Information

For any further information please contact us at [itt@bluecoat.uk.com](mailto:itt@bluecoat.uk.com)

Visit our website [www.bluecoatsscittalliance.uk.com](http://www.bluecoatsscittalliance.uk.com)



*Some of the benefits of our year-long School Direct programme*

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