April 2019

Dear Headteacher,

Re: PGCE Primary (Full Time) Programme

I am writing to thank you for supporting the Canterbury Christ Church University Partnership.

Our Partnership is committed to the development of outstanding teachers who have a transformative impact on learners’ lives. We work together with schools and settings to ensure that the teachers we educate bring about progress in learning which transforms learners’ knowledge, skills and understanding and their opportunities in life. We hope that our students are resilient, resourceful and professional and will become champions of equality, diversity and inclusion in their future practice.

Prior to the start of the programme, the student has been asked to complete some independently arranged time in school to help assist them in gaining the maximum benefit from the taught programme and subsequent professional placements. We hope this will provide student teachers with the opportunity to observe and most importantly reflect on teaching and learning. We would ask that during this time they are seeking with you, that you ask questions and encourage them to think at a deep level about their observations and experiences, as this will support their further development when they join us at the start of the programme.

The student should also ask you to sign an Attendance Record to help evidence their time with you. We would be grateful if you could complete and return the form to the student at the end of their time with you. The student will then be responsible for handing this in to the University at the start of the course.

We appreciate that schools are extremely busy places so we are most grateful to you, and your staff, for agreeing to provide this opportunity to our student; it is the starting point of their journey to become an outstanding teacher of the future. If you have any questions, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If, whilst the student is with you, you decide that you would like to support the student, or another PGCE Student from Canterbury Christ Church University for a Professional Placement, please indicate on the attached attendance form. I have attached an overview of the PGCE programme for your information.

Yours sincerely

Vikki Schulze
Programme Director PGCE Primary (Full-time)
PGCE Primary (Full-time)

Our Programme is a well-established and highly respected route into teaching. Applicants must possess a good honours degree. The aim of our Programme is to develop practitioners who:-

1. Have strongly held and articulated understanding and beliefs about the power of education to change lives
2. Learn from their own and others’ research throughout their career
3. Lead learning to effect change in education through conversation, collaboration and co-operation
4. Empower all children through creative and innovative approaches to teaching and learning
5. Have deep subject knowledge across the curriculum
6. Engage in local, national and global communities

The Programme (Newly revalidated in 2018-19)

The Programme runs in partnership with primary schools who are involved in admissions, course planning and assessment of student teachers. The newly revalidated Programme has been planned for all students to meet the Teachers’ Standards (DFE 2012) and has six main modules:

1. **Contemporary Issues in Education**, which introduces student teachers to key issues in education. All students take this course at Masters level.

2. **Curriculum & Pedagogy**, which provides student teachers with a secure knowledge of all core subjects and ICT, while taster courses are also taught in all foundation subjects. All students take this course at Masters level.

3. **Researching Teaching & Learning**, where students follow a course aimed at the analysis and understanding of more advanced areas of primary pedagogy and research. All students take this course at Masters level.

4. The final **3 x modules** are **Professional Placement** modules. We work very closely with our partnership schools to provide a range of professional experiences. These include three main blocks of professional placements during the programme where Placements 1 & 2 take place in the same school/age-phase as follows:
   - **Professional Placement 1**: 4 week Induction placement in September/early October; in one setting and age-phase
   - **Professional Placement 2**: 8 week development placement returning to the same setting and age-phase in Nov-Dec, and Jan-early Feb.
   - **Professional Placement 3**: 12 week consolidation and ‘qualifying’ placement in a contrasting setting and consecutive age-phase end of March – Early July.

Student teachers need breadth and variety of experience in schools to enable them to meet all the standards for QTS. They need to teach children and young people from different backgrounds, and in their specified age ranges (3-7, 5-11, 7-11) as well as gaining experience of different approaches to teaching and to school organisation and management. The ITE criterion specifies that trainees must have **taught in two schools** prior to the award of QTS. It is not sufficient for trainees only to have had experience of two schools. It also specifies that trainees must have experience in **teaching two consecutive age phases**. Professional placements for students on the PGCE primary fulltime programme are thus organised to ensure these requirements are fully addressed and met. Students will spend at least 120 days of the entire programme in school.