

NEW MENTOR DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



When we consider initial teacher training we automatically envisage new teachers working with the pupils, setting a positive classroom environment, eager to build relationships, whilst spending time planning lessons behind the scenes. What is often forgotten is the support and guidance they gain from expert colleagues from whom they learn this new trade. Sutton SCITT mentors are a highly valued team of teachers from our partner schools who are pivotal to the success of our trainees. Not only do they work with our trainees on a daily basis, but they also have an opportunity to continue their learning with us. This year, as part of the new reforms in ITE, the SCITT held its first face to face Mentor conference since the pandemic. What a fantastic atmosphere working with colleagues from our network of schools.

'A solid foundation for the next layer of training'

'I really enjoyed understanding the different types of coaching and how I will implement these through my leadership as well as mentoring'

The planning for this event and the training across all of our training pathways is adapted to suit the needs of our local area and we hope to continue training teachers for the benefit of children in our schools.

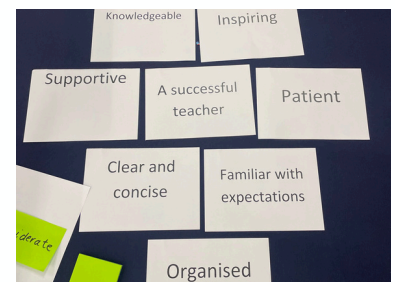
'The central team are a credit to the programme and I am very much looking forward to being part of such a great organisation. I understand my role and what is expected and I know where to go for help should I need it'

We can see the impact of our mentors through the growth and development of our trainees. All of our trainees have now successfully completed their training and are ready to fly solo next year. We are confident we have set them up for success in their ECT year and wish them every success in the next steps of their career. Trainees, you have been a pleasure to work with. Keep in touch, one day you might step into a mentoring role with us.



To everyone involved in our programme, thank you for continued support and have a relaxing summer.

Kate
SCITT Director



Teachers for Sutton & Beyond-Success in Employment

Sutton SCITT was set up 10 years ago to provide a pipeline of teachers into Sutton schools, even more important today given the national challenges of teacher recruitment. Many of our former trainees now hold positions of responsibility and some are mentors to new cohorts of trainees coming through. As we approach the end of this year, over 80% of our current cohort of trainees have accepted offers of teaching positions in our local schools. Others have secured employment in neighbouring boroughs or further afield.

80%



SCITT ALUMNI

WESTMINSTER EDUCATION FORUM POLICY CONFERENCE

In April, Kate (SCITT Director) and Sophie (Deputy Director) were invited to present at and be part of a panel discussion at this conference titled 'Next steps for initial teacher training in England'. The conference explored the policy priorities for the future and the challenges of recruitment and retention of teachers.

SECOND ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON NASBTT WEBSITE

Following our article last year on DEI for the National Association of School Based Teacher Training, Sutton SCITT contributed another specifically on supporting success for neurodivergent trainees. Over the past few years, we have worked with a range of trainees including those with Autism, ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and Dyspraxia which are described as 'hidden disabilities'. The article includes a case study of the support given and journey of one trainee through their training year.

<https://www.nasbtt.org.uk/member-voice-supporting-success-for-neurodivergent-trainees-at-sutton-scitt/>

GET INTO TEACHING

NOWTEACH

In February we ran an open Professional Studies day that was attended by 'Now Teach' 'Now Teach' is a charitable organisation that was established to create a network of support for career changers into teaching. The SCITT has been working with the charity to provide opportunities for those considering teaching. This year, this has included observations in subject department, Professional Studies taster sessions, talks with SCITT tutors, Headteacher and SCITT/Now teach Alumni who now work in our partner schools. Further online support and guidance has been given around funding, preparing for interviews and outlines of the different training models. The SCITT embraces the work of 'Now Teach' and continues to liaise and support them through their bids for funding in Education. We look forward to hosting future events with them next year and hope their delegates will choose us as their training provider.

<https://nowteach.org.uk>

Read Deepak's article ['Reasons to be cheerful at 50!'](#)

THE TRAINING YEAR

By Sophia Clarke



As we approach our final day as trainee teachers, it's important to reflect on how far we've come. I recall teaching my first session in phase 1; I was so terrified that I walked into a table within the first 5 seconds of the lesson, mispronouncing every single name on the register, and looking out to a room of 30 teens with no idea what I was doing. I left the classroom with a bruised hip and a bruised ego. Even though this was my personal experience, I am confident that many of us felt the same way. When I reflect on this, I am proud of the tenacity we have all demonstrated this year. It takes a dedicated, empathetic, driven, and kind person to endure through the unique challenges of teaching. Whether Abyasa took the entire first period to refresh, one student ignored every warning you gave them, or you were juggling a life and being a teacher, you showed up nonetheless, which takes determination. So, while we bid our goodbyes to our colleagues and classmates this week, remember to give yourself a pat on the back and an achievement point. The next generation is fortunate to have such sincere, caring, and sensitive teachers in their lives.

SPOTLIGHT ON...ASH (PRIMARY TRAINEE)

What has been the best thing about training to teach with Sutton SCITT?

The best thing about training to teach with Sutton SCITT was the level of support, feedback and help I got on the course. The team really made a big effort to get to know me as an individual and listen to any challenges I faced. They were always there to help me overcome these and are very approachable.



What have you enjoyed most about the programme?

There are many things that I've enjoyed on this programme but the best was getting to work with my final placement class. My placement gave me the opportunity to fall in love with teaching again and this was down to the support the SCITT offered as well as a brilliant class and mentor that I had.

How has Sutton SCITT prepared you for your ECT year?

Sutton SCITT went above and beyond to make sure I was ready for my ECT year. The extra time they dedicated to making sure I had all my boxes ticked ready to become an ECT. The effort they put in to shape me into an ECT teacher was commendable. Due to them, I feel ready to begin my new career as a teacher and have developed the right professionalism and skills suited for the role.

What's one piece of advice you would give someone who is considering going into teaching?

My piece of advice would be: sometimes life gets tough on this course and everything feels overwhelming. If this happens, talk to the team. They are always willing to listen and are people themselves! They know and have undergone all the challenges that we face in the present moment. They will always make time to make you feel listened to and heard. Keep striving and keep communicating!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION LEARNING



By Gracie Smith
Drama Trainee



Earlier this year, I was given the opportunity to attend a DEI conference organised by Diverse Educators for trainee teachers together with one other SCITT trainee. The aim of the day was for us to meet with a range of different practitioners to discuss how DEI can be promoted within schools on things such as terminology, resources, new ideas etc and how this can be implemented.

The day was full of amazing case studies with time for questions after every speaker. When I was a pupil at school, I felt as though these conversations were never encouraged and that education was actually never able to raise awareness. As someone who identifies with the LGBTQ+ community, I want students to have the opportunity to ask questions and be educated on the things that were missing previously and I want them to feel as though they have a safe place to be. DEI is an umbrella term for a range of different groups; race, gender, sexuality, disability and those who are neurodivergent. I learned a lot from this day and felt that it really opened my eyes to how easy it is to create an inclusive classroom without feeling as though you are just teaching about a select topic at a certain time and DEI should be something that is recognised everyday. DEI should be recognised everyday. This can be simple things such as through classroom displays or even literature that discusses these topics and as a Drama teacher, this was very enlightening.

Already I feel I have been able to discuss these topics more openly with both students and colleagues and I am so excited to be able to continue implementing this into my future practice as a fully qualified teacher. This conference was an amazing way for me to get ideas on how DEI can be promoted throughout schools. I am very thankful for this opportunity!



Sutton SCITT TiKToK

This academic year has seen the launch of the Sutton SCITT Tik Tok account where we have shared anecdotes, snippets from training days and had trainees create reels themselves. After launching in December 2023, we have created nearly 100 posts and photographs which regularly receive hundreds of views with our most popular being viewed nearly 10,000 times! The account is approaching 200 followers and posts have received a combined total of over 2500 likes. Aimed at both those who are already teaching, and those who are completing, or considering completing, their teacher training, there are posts with books to read to develop pedagogical knowledge, information about our programmes and others that are just for fun about school life.

