

SPOTLIGHT ON: Early Career Teachers



In Spotlight On, we catch up with our Early Career Teachers (ECTs) as they progress through the early stages of their career with us!

This time, we catch up with Ryan Booth, Teacher of Geography at Outwood Academy Newbold!

What first made you want to become a teacher?

The old cliché of making a difference certainly featured in my thinking. For me, I realised that even years after leaving school, I still loved geography as a subject. The extra years have allowed me to really appreciate how geography features in so much of everyday life and I was keen to emphasise this with a new generation.

“I walk into my classroom with a smile on my face and I leave in the same frame of mind.”

How are you finding teaching so far?

I absolutely love teaching so far. I walk into my classroom with a smile on my face and I leave in the same frame of mind. Obviously, there are challenges but these challenges feel worthwhile and valid when you consider the reason for teaching in the first place. I couldn't recommend it highly enough.

“The ITT training programme through Teach Outwood was absolutely exceptional.”

How has your teacher training set you up for your first year as a teacher?

The ITT training programme through Teach Outwood was absolutely exceptional. I felt supported, valued and very welcome from the start. Mentors are experts in their profession and subject and any member of staff I came into contact with was positive and happy to help. The guidance received from Teach North was informative, relevant and reassuring. They made you feel like a part of the family from the start.

What are your learnings so far?

Learn as you go. Having the opportunity to repeat lessons is a really important tool when developing your style as a teacher. Don't be afraid to try something new and adapt how you taught the lesson previously. Also, don't take yourself too seriously. Show students that you're human and that you make mistakes sometimes as well. I'll always own up if I get something wrong, it helps build relationships.

Could you share any tips/advice for other ECTs or trainee teachers?

Don't be too hard on yourself. Some lessons will go badly, students won't listen and you'll feel like you wasted an hour. Learn from it and try to adapt. The ability to reflect, but not too critically, is incredibly important through ITT and still applies very much as an ECT. Make sure you know what works for you as stress relief - don't compromise on that time.

“I know where to go when I need support.”

How have you felt supported so far by the Outwood Family?

I have felt hugely supported, both in terms of my school and the wider Outwood Family and NIoT. I know what's expected of me. I know where to go when I need support. I know the steps I need to take for my career to progress in a positive manner and most importantly, I know how to become better at teaching. The Outwood Family and the National Institute of Teaching (NIoT) have been fantastic.