

“Trainee Chat”



Jess Kew Modern Foreign Languages: Spanish

Why did you decide to train to teach? What inspired you?

I was lucky enough to live and study abroad from the age of 12. I had two teachers who really stood out to me, helping me to learn French and Spanish. They supported me with language learning and I developed a love for, not only learning languages, but wanting to teach others a new language, culture and history.

Why did you choose to train to teach with Outwood and the National Institute of Teaching?

I wanted to complete a school-based teacher training programme, developing professional relationships from day one. I visited Outwood Academy Newbold in Chesterfield and I knew it was the school where I wanted to be! The interview process was purposeful and interesting: there was no pressure from the interviewers and I felt that I would be well supported throughout my journey with the National Institute of Training.

Please describe your experiences so far?

I have enjoyed every moment of my teacher training year so far. The Languages departments in both of my placements have been brilliant; staff have supported me with teaching and planning lessons, as well as marking and classroom strategies. Colleagues have recognised that I am a trainee teacher and they have eased me in slowly, provided effective feedback - including realistic points on how to improve my teaching. The weekly training has been invaluable, giving me the tools I need for behaviour management, teaching, planning, routines, relationships and time management.

What level of support have you received in your training so far?

I have received a very high level of support in my training, not only from my mentor and the department but from the whole academy, the Principal and Vice Principal, NIoT tutor, safeguarding officers and other trainee teachers. It really is like a community and everyone helps anyone they can!

What advice would you give to someone thinking about becoming a teacher?

I would recommend getting a teacher planner to support the required organisation - planning lessons, mentor meetings, after school clubs, training, marking - and, most importantly, to schedule some time for yourself!