



Shropshire and Telford
Education Partnership

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School led, Transformative, Excellence in Partnership

Termly update from STEP: A Golden Thread in Teaching Careers

STEP provides a seamless transition from Initial Teacher Training to Early Career Teachers and onward to National Professional Qualification, supporting your journey every step of the way.

The start of term seems so long ago now, here at STEP, we have been delivering our bespoke programmes across Shropshire and Telford as the one-stop teaching school hub, and look forward to continuing to work with you all.



Initial Teacher Training (ITT) news



🎓 Celebrating the Class of 2025: 69 Trainees Graduate with Pride!

As the academic year wraps up, we're thrilled to celebrate the graduation of 69 PGCE with QTS trainees across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin (STEP). These passionate individuals are now ready to begin their teaching journeys, equipped with the skills, resilience, and heart to make a lasting impact.

👏 This achievement wouldn't be possible without the incredible support from our placement schools, academic trainers, and Lead School Partners. Special thanks to Sam Scott and Claire Jones, who completed their first year as ITT leads with dedication and fresh energy.


💬 Here's what some of our new teachers had to say:

"The school direct PGCE has been a rewarding experience. Local training sessions made commuting easier, and learning in different school settings enriched our understanding. The support from the training alliance was consistent and responsive, helping us navigate the course smoothly. I'd highly recommend this route."

Matt Baugh, Severn Training and Schools Alliance

"It has been the most challenging and rewarding thing I have done in my career... I couldn't speak more highly about this course."

Jesse Ladd, Shropshire Primary Partnership

 **Coming September 2025:** STEP's new promotional video showcasing the heart of our ITT programme. Expect real voices, inspiring stories, and a glimpse into the vibrant community that makes STEP so special.

STEP ITT Toolkit to be available from September 2025.

Julie Marriott and Ian Nurser, STEP ITT Advocates, have produced an ITT Toolkit which will be published from September 2025.


What is the toolkit for?

STEP's aim is to support schools in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin with recruitment by enhancing communication, fostering collaborative partnerships, and promoting engagement in teacher training and professional development.

Great teachers are the foundation of successful schools. To meet rising pupil numbers, we must find innovative ways to attract passionate individuals to the profession, recognising the vital role current teachers play in inspiring future educators.

As part of our strategic role as the Teaching School Hub, STEP has worked with providers across Shropshire and Telford to create an ITT Toolkit as a resource bank aimed at supporting schools with staff recruitment and retention.

We believe teacher training is essential for sustainable recruitment. The ITT Toolkit provides marketing materials and key messages to help schools support national efforts to attract new teachers. By promoting the profession locally, schools can play a vital role in recruitment and highlighting the positive impact of teaching on future generations.


 Read more [here](#) to explore the full article, reflections from our trainees and leaders, and what's next for STEP.


Early Career Framework and Appropriate Body News





ECF to ECTE: Supporting Early Career Teachers into 2025/26


As we approach the new academic year, STEP is preparing for the transition from the Early Career Framework (ECF) to the new **Early Career Teacher Entitlement (ECTE)**. We're working closely with University College London and Best Practice Network to ensure a smooth and supportive experience for all new and continuing ECTs and mentors.

 The **DfE portal is now open** for ECTE registration. Induction Tutors must register ECTs with both an **Appropriate Body** (e.g. STEP via ECT Manager) and a **Lead Provider** (e.g. UCL or BPN via the DfE portal) to ensure access to training and accurate induction records.

 STEP has hosted webinars this term to guide schools through the changes, outline responsibilities, and ensure everyone is ready to support ECTs effectively from day one in September.

 Please note: from September 2025, **Appropriate Body fees will increase** from £175 to £200 per ECT. This aligns with national trends and reflects rising delivery costs.

 A reminder that the next **Progress and Assessment Report deadline is Friday 11th July**. Templates and examples are available on ECT Manager to support Induction Tutors in completing these efficiently and effectively.

 **Read more [here](#)** for full guidance, registration links, and support from the STEP team.

National Professional Qualification (NPQ)



📌 NPQ Update: Register Your Interest Now for 2025/26

If you're considering taking the next step in your leadership journey, now is the time to act. The Department for Education has confirmed that there will be **only one NPQ intake** for the 2025/26 academic year. While funding details are still to be announced, registering your interest early ensures you won't miss out on key updates or limited funded places.

By registering now, you'll:

- Be first in line for **fully funded places** (subject to eligibility)
- Receive **priority updates** and reminders when applications open
- Keep your options open with **no obligation to apply**

STWP
Shropshire and Telford
Education Partnership

Alliance of Leading Learning
Leading Learning for ALL our young people, teachers and school leaders

Register Your Interest

For the November 2025 NPQ Cohort

APPLY NOW ➔

There will be only **ONE** intake for NPQs
in 2025 / 2026

www.stepwm2.co.uk

We're also excited to offer the **NPQSL Level 7 Apprenticeship with MA**—a fully funded, comprehensive leadership development route that includes:

- The NPQ for Senior Leadership
- A Master's in Educational Leadership
- A Level 7 Senior Leader Apprenticeship
- Chartered Manager Status with the CMI

💬 Past participants describe the experience as “life-changing”, with headteachers reporting a clear impact on schools and pupils through deeper reflection, evidence-informed practice, and confident leadership.

🔗 **Read more here** to explore the full article, hear from participants, and discover how NPQs can support your career and your school

Read the great feedback [here](#)



MTPT Project

inspire, empower, connect

Supporting Parent-Teachers with MTPT

The Maternity Teacher / Paternity Teacher Project (MTPT) is the UK's only charity dedicated to empowering teachers navigating parenthood alongside their careers. From pregnancy through to parental leave and returning to the classroom, MTPT offers coaching, networking, and professional development tailored to the needs of parent-teachers. Their mission is to make teaching a sustainable, family-friendly profession.

We're proud to support this fantastic FREE support service, helping to ensure that educators across our region have access to the resources and community they need to thrive both at home and in school.

🔗 Learn more at www.mtpt.org.uk



Don't forget to follow us!!





Contact us

What do you want to hear about in our next STEP newsletter?

If you would like to put suggestions forward, please email Lucy Copson below...

[Click here](#)



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