

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



Welcome to the Class of 2025–2026!

We're excited to welcome our new Associate Teachers starting their PGCE training with STEP! Training locally means you're part of a strong, supportive community—and we hope to see you teaching in STEP schools from September 2026.

Testimonial:

"As a career changer stepping into the world of education later in life, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. This course has exceeded every hope I had. It's professional, inspiring, and genuinely challenging in all the right ways. I have grown in confidence, developed real practical skills, and rediscovered a sense of purpose.

I'm truly grateful for the guidance and high standards that have shaped my journey into teaching so far and the new relationships that I have made along the way".

Jen Hulmes - Shropshire Primary Partnership

A Big Thank You

To our placement schools and mentors—thank you! Your dedication to training, hosting placements, and guiding weekly reflections makes this possible. We couldn't do it without you.

Building Connections

Teaching is all about relationships—with pupils, parents, staff, and governors. Our Associate Teachers come from diverse backgrounds: recent graduates, school staff, and career changers. At STEP, we focus on creating a welcoming, cohesive group so everyone feels ready to learn and thrive.

Learning Through Experience

From team-building adventures with Arthog Outreach—canoeing, climbing, and supporting each other—to co-operative learning in science with Shropshire Primary Partnership, we model the strategies we want our teachers to use in the classroom.

Looking Ahead: Recruitment & Retention

Recruiting and retaining great teachers is vital. That's why STEP has developed a new toolkit to help schools attract passionate educators and celebrate the profession.

Launching early next year, it includes marketing resources and ITT explainer videos—marking over 10 years of success in teacher training.



👉 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



Class of July 2025 – Congratulations!

This summer, around 121 Early Career Teachers successfully completed their induction with STEP Appropriate Body. Over two years, they've embraced self-study, local training, and in-school mentoring to grow as professionals—and we're proud to celebrate their achievements!

Graduations continue throughout the year, so congratulations to all ECTs and mentors reaching this milestone.

From ECF to ECT Entitlement

September saw the launch of the Early Career Teacher Entitlement (ECTE) and our new partnership with University College London (UCL)—another 'Outstanding' Lead Provider alongside Best Practice Network. Whether continuing with BPN or starting with UCL, all participants can expect a high-quality, research-based programme delivered by local experts.

Registration & Support

Thank you to Induction Tutors and Head Teachers for registering ECTs and mentors during this transition from ECF to ECTE. The DfE portal remains open for spring starters—please ensure new teachers are registered with both an Appropriate Body (e.g., STEP) and a Lead Provider (UCL or BPN) to secure funding and access training.

Guidance is available on our website → [Click Here](#)

Welcome & Engagement

It was fantastic to meet new ECTE participants at our September Welcome Conference and Training Days. Feedback has been extremely positive, and we look forward to seeing continued engagement as ECTs join local cohorts for training and mentors complete their UCL study package.

Briefings & Drop-ins

Thank you to everyone who joined our October Induction Tutor Briefing and recent drop-ins. These sessions share good practice and answer questions—next briefing is **11 February**, and spring drop-ins are scheduled for **25 & 26 February**.

STEP Reporting deadlines:

Our Autumn Term Professional Progress Review / Assessments for ECTs are due by **Friday 12th December** (except for ECTs commencing mid-term). Induction Tutors should complete these via [ECT Manager](#).

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

National Professional Qualification (NPQ)



Our National Professional Qualifications Have Launched!

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our **National Professional Qualifications (NPQs)**—a major milestone in professional development for educators across Shropshire and Telford.

This marks the start of an exciting leadership journey for colleagues at every level, from classroom teachers to CEOs. Our NPQs are designed to empower educators with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to excel in their roles, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration within schools.

The feedback so far has been fantastic! Leaders are already taking new learning back into their schools, driving real impact on school improvement and making a difference for our children and young people.

NPQH

Ashley Bowler Assistant Head Idsall School says:

"Brilliant first day on NPQH training for myself as an aspiring headteacher. Lots of thoughtful insight and great discussion with like-minded people. The start of the course certainly has given me a great deal of confidence and support in taking the next steps to headship. I'm looking forward to progressing through the course and learning new skills. Very grateful for the opportunity".

To view NPQ information on our website - [click here](#)

Welcome to the Team

Welcome Jacqui Gough to the STEP Team!



We're delighted to announce that Jacqui Gough has joined STEP as our NPQ Strategic Lead. Jacqui brings a wealth of experience and passion for professional development and will play a key role in shaping and delivering National Professional Qualification programmes.

In addition to her role with STEP, Jacqui is the Strategic Lead for Professional Learning – Programmes and Partnership, with the Alliance of Leading Learning.

Introducing 3-18 Inspired Futures: Train to Teach

We're excited to share that **Salop Teaching School** has rebranded and is now **3-18 Inspiring Futures - Train To Teach!**

This change reflects the longstanding partnership with The 3-18 Education Trust and their growing community of Shropshire schools. Our Train to Teach provision is proudly part of 3-18 Inspiring Futures, the Trust's comprehensive professional learning and development.



Dates for your Diary

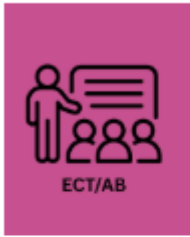


STSA Info Sessions - Every Tuesday 5:30 - 6:30pm - [Click Here](#)

3-18 Inspiring Futures - Online and F2F - [Click Here](#)

Shropshire Primary Partnership - Wednesday's 5:00-6:00 - [Click Here](#)

Alliance of Leading Learning - Info Clinics - [Click Here](#)



Professional Progress Review / Assessments - due Friday 12th Dec
Tutors Briefing - Wednesday 11th February at 3:30pm
Spring Drop in Sessions - 25th and 26th February - Invites will be sent out for these sessions in January.



Further information on the 2026 intake will be announced on here as soon as it is made available from the DfE



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](#)

STEP

Shropshire and Telford
Education Partnership

