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**School led, Transformative, Excellence in Partnership**

**Termly update from  
STEP: A Golden Thread in Teaching Careers**



# Initial Teacher Training (ITT) News

Our trainees are more than half-way through the course and on track to qualifying with a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education(PGCE) with Qualified Teacher Status(QTS).

As you know, teacher recruitment has been a persistent issue for more than a decade. Recent parliamentary reports highlight that most secondary subjects continue to face under-recruitment, despite government incentives. This shortage is part of a wider challenge around both recruitment and retention, which remain closely linked.

We know that many of you talk about struggling to assemble a strong field of applicants and may be having to recruit more inexperienced or unqualified candidates when necessary due to managing budget constraints and having to adjust staffing models.

With that in mind, we are busy recruiting for the 2026-2027 cohort and are excited to share the launch of our ITT Toolkit, which gives lots of information about the routes into teaching as well as a resource hub that we invite you to browse and share with members of support staff, parents and carers and the wider community. We hope you will join us on our journey to training the next generation of teachers, home grown, who want to teach in their local community.



[Download Toolkit Here](#)



[Visit Resource Hub Here](#)

## Showcase Your Partnership with STEP

We're thrilled to share our *Proud Partner School* badge, a simple but powerful way to boost your school's visibility as part of the STEP family.

Please feel free to use this image across:

- Your school website
- Email signatures
- Newsletters
- Social media
- Recruitment pages and materials

Every display strengthens our shared message and supports the recruitment of outstanding future teachers.

### **Proud Partner School badge:**

*(ready to save and use)*



[Read more](#)

# Early Career Framework and Appropriate Body News

## Spring Starters

This term began with the introduction of newly registered Early Career Teachers and Mentors, who attended face-to-face induction conferences in January. These sessions provided an overview of ECT entitlements, roles and responsibilities, and the University College London training programmes that form the foundation of the ECF journey. Following this, new participants joined established local cohorts for additional in-person learning, reflection and networking opportunities ahead of half-term.

## Induction Tutor Briefings

Induction Tutors took part in an online briefing in February which explored the significance of their role in ensuring statutory requirements are met, monitoring engagement with training and reviewing progress against the Teachers' Standards. The session also offered guidance on supporting ECTs who may be experiencing early challenges, including the use of SMART targets and effective scaffolding strategies.

## Quality Assurance Visits

Quality Assurance activity has continued across the partnership, with school visits providing valuable insights into how settings organise and deliver the ECTE. These visits help to ensure consistency, highlight effective practice and deepen understanding of the support and structures in place for ECTs. Observing aspects of practice and discussing experiences with staff remains an important part of this process.

## Upcoming Key Dates

Spring assessment deadlines and summer-term briefing dates have now been confirmed, including opportunities for ECTs, Mentors, Induction Tutors and school leaders to join drop-ins and Q&A sessions via Microsoft Teams.

[Read more](#)

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# National Professional Qualification (NPQ)

## NPQ Update – Celebrating Success Across Our Region

### Outstanding October Assessment Success

This term has brought exceptional achievements across NPQ programmes within the Shropshire and Telford Education Partnership. The October assessment window saw an impressive **97% pass rate** across both leadership and specialist NPQs. This reflects the high levels of commitment and dedication shown across the region, and represents a significant success for all involved.

### Progress for the November 2025 Cohort

The cohort that began NPQ programmes in November 2025 has now successfully completed Module 1 and is moving into Module 2 this month. Engagement across the group has been consistently strong, and progress continues to be highly positive as learning deepens and develops.

### Best Wishes for the April 2026 Assessment Window

Preparations are well underway for the April 2026 assessment window. Participants across the region have demonstrated sustained hard work throughout their programmes, and this upcoming assessment period is an important opportunity to showcase the impact of that learning.

Further information regarding the next NPQ intake and updated funding guidelines will be shared as soon as possible. Any enquiries can be directed to [adminall@leadinglearning.co.uk](mailto:adminall@leadinglearning.co.uk)

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

Read more

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# MTPT Project

inspire, empower, connect

## Supporting our trainee and qualified teachers who are maternity/paternity leave

You will be aware that the parent-educator community have been recognised in the White Paper with a commitment to ongoing support for returning parents, including an increase in maternity pay. At STEP, we are proud to be supporting our colleagues on maternity/paternity leave, so that they are confident to return to their substantive role in school. We know that this can be a lonely and often daunting time, when thinking about returning to work. We are supporting the Maternity Teacher Paternity Teacher scheme, by funding all teachers in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin to access free training and support.

Here are opportunity coming up in March to share with colleagues **currently on Maternity Leave**

**Return to Work workshop** - Monday 23rd March - good live capacity remaining  
For further information - <https://www.mtpt.org.uk/> or [info@stepwm2.co.uk](mailto:info@stepwm2.co.uk)

## Dates for your Diary



ITT

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](#)



ECT/AB

Yr 1 ECT's: UCL LLC4 & Intro to Module 5 - **W/C Monday 23rd March**

Year 2 Mentors: BPN Final Module - **W/C Monday 23rd March**



Check out all information here:

[Apply Here - Alliance of Leading Learning](#)

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Return to Work Workshop - Monday 23rd March

[MTPT March Return to Work Workshop Tickets, Monday, Mar 23 from](#)

[9:30 am to 11 am GMT | Eventbrite](#)

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**Don't forget to follow us!!**



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

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

[Click here to email](#)



**Shropshire and Telford  
Education Partnership**



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