



## **SECONDARY TEACHER TRAINING IN MILTON KEYNES**

### ***The Background to the Initial Teacher Training Partnership in Milton Keynes***

For 14 years, St Paul's Catholic School has been a Training School dedicated to the training and development of excellent teachers who will teach in schools in Milton Keynes. Over 500 teachers have completed successful, teacher training via the GTP and PGCE routes and the vast majority of these are employed in the secondary schools across Milton Keynes. St Paul's and Denbigh School partnered their ITT provision several years ago and have now developed a government accredited SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) and are pleased to be lead partners in this exciting teacher training initiative.

### ***What is special about our route into teaching?***

The SCITT and School Direct route into teaching is designed to maximise the time that a training teacher spends in school. This is time spent in training sessions as well as undertaking teaching placements. This ensures that everyone training with us has the maximum opportunity to learn and develop as teachers.

### ***Those involved in the School Partnership***

SCITT provision and School Direct is a natural addition to the teacher training already offered by Denbigh Teaching School Alliance and St Paul's. We work in partnership with all secondary schools in Milton Keynes and also those slightly outside of the locality such as Sir Thomas Freemantle and Vandyke School in Leighton Buzzard. We have well established links with a range of providers and are very pleased to be working with the University of Leicester for the PGCE aspect of the course.

St Paul's will coordinate the programme and the overall training experience and Denbigh manage the administrative aspects of the course. All of the secondary

schools in Milton Keynes will provide school-based placements for the training teacher recruited.

## ***The Shape of the Course***

The vast majority of the time devoted to training is in school. All training teachers will work alongside experienced and dedicated teaching staff and mentors who will provide the support and guidance needed to become a first rate teacher. Each training teacher recruited will be placed in a school that is most able to meet his or her training needs. A school-focused professional studies programme is provided by St Paul's and the alliance partners. This is a weekly programme of workshops delivered by practising teachers from across the secondary schools in Milton Keynes and surrounding areas. The focus of the programme is to address the development needs of the next generation of teachers who will teach in our schools in the unique, dynamic and diverse community of Milton Keynes. A programme of subject studies is also provided and is delivered by local specialists in the field. These sessions are designed to develop the understanding and delivery of a subject, reviewing topics such as lesson planning and assessment.

Training teachers will be following this exciting programme of professional studies and subject studies to promote and explore the philosophy of education and the pedagogy associated with the teaching of a subject.

This course is framed by a commitment to help you to develop into a graduate teacher who is reflective, creative, resourceful, independent, collaborative and resilient. It presumes you have the drive, energy and commitment to undertake a course which is devised to develop your expertise in teaching and learning. Key to the course are the skills to be an effective communicator whilst also being a responsible and accountable professional at all times. This SCITT/School Direct scheme offers a practical approach to teacher training which gives you a 'hands on' experience as a classroom practitioner.

Students are on placement in one 'base' school throughout the year. This is from the start of the school year (including training days) and until the last Friday in June. It is compulsory for all ITT students to have an experience in a second school. This short placement will be organized from February half term until Easter. It is also usual that a period of 4 days is spent in a local Primary school to develop an understanding of transition. This is organized by the trainee.

There are two overarching elements to the course: the development as a professional and the development as a subject specialist. These are not separate and all aspects of the year intertwine and overlap. The best ITT students have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities as a teacher in a school.

You can expect a wide range of support throughout the year. A mentor in school will be responsible for you on a daily basis and the mentors are supported in school by a nominated Professional Tutor. You will have support with professional practice sessions and also subject specific sessions. Link tutors will visit you on placement and observe you to quality assure your experience.

Lead teaching of classes in the early stages is very much dependent on your past experience, your ability and confidence. You will be expected to assume responsibility for whole class teaching as soon as you and your mentor feel that you are ready for this undertaking. By way of guidance it is normal for the first two weeks to be observation so that you become familiar with the classes you will be assigned. You would then normally take parts of lessons (starters, plenary, demonstrations etc.) for a further two weeks to nurture you into the teaching and learning experience. Normally a trainee teacher would be lead teaching up to 6 lessons a week before October half term. The proportion of lead teaching would then increase gradually each week until your timetable reaches approximately 16 hours per week.

At the end of the year successful trainees will be awarded QTS status and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education – PGCE with Masters level credits. The assessment process for these awards consists of being able to satisfy the Teacher Standards and also demonstrate an understanding of the relevant subject knowledge required for the subject through set assignments.

## **PGCE**

The Tommy Flowers SCITT MK offers the options to pursue either the POST GRADUATE IN EDUCATION at Level 7 with 60 Masters credits or the PROFESSIONAL GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION at Level 6.

In addition to providing QTS certification, The Tommy Flowers SCITT MK is able to offer you a choice of two routes towards achieving your PGCE which is awarded by the University of Leicester:

- The 'traditional' route (i.e. that which has been known as the PGCE for many years) which is taught and assessed at honours graduate level through the submission of written assignments. This route leads to the award of the *Professional Graduate Certificate in Education* (PGCE-Level 6) in addition to the Qualified Teacher Status award.
- The 'new' route (i.e. that which has been developed since September 2007) is taught and assessed at Masters Level. This route leads to the award of the *Post-Graduate Certificate in Education* (PGCE-Level 7) in addition to the Qualified Teacher Status award. Successful students gain 60 credits at Masters level which can be used towards the 180 credits needed for a full Masters degree award.

The PGCE-Level 7 programme is academically more demanding and rigorous than the Level 6 programme and students can expect to take on approximately 20% of extra work load and time compared to that required for the Level 6 programme. Students choosing the Level 7 programme would need to feel confident about their previous performance with academic work as would we. **For this reason, any final decisions on routes will be by negotiation with The Tommy Flowers SCITT MK.**

Both PGCE programmes help students to become more critically aware of the underlying issues and theories in secondary school education and set these in a broader educational context than that of students' immediate concerns in their training year. The PGCE-Level 7 programme develops the criticality skill further through lectures, readings and peer work and the submission of a set of written assignments and presentations. Students will be expected to engage with academic study in addition to the pressing concerns of the classroom.

## **FAQs**

### ***What's the difference between SCITT/School Direct and a PGCE?***

SCITT is a type of teacher training course – SCITT programmes are school-based teacher training programmes. A PGCE is an academic qualification – A Postgraduate or Professional Certificate in Education.

By successfully training with The Tommy Flowers SCITT MK you would gain QTS status and a PGCE qualification.

### ***Do I need a PGCE to teach?***

No, you do not need a PGCE. The qualification required to teach in England and Wales is QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) but The Tommy Flowers SCITT MK course leads to the award of QTS and a PGCE.

### ***How do I apply to Tommy Flowers SCITT MK?***

*Applications to Tommy Flowers SCITT are made via UCAS ITT*  
[www.ucas.com/apply/teacher-training](http://www.ucas.com/apply/teacher-training)

Recruitment begins for our courses from October until the subject courses are full. However, we continue to accept applications in shortage subjects right up until July. We operate a waiting list and will contact candidates should a place become available.

We do recruit from all sections of the community and we always appoint on merit - regardless of disability, gender, race and religion.

### ***Do you offer Primary training?***

Yes, from September 2016 we will be running a Primary initial teacher training course. Therefore recruitment for this course will start in October 2015. Please contact Angela Kendall ( [angela.kendall@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:angela.kendall@st-pauls.org.uk) ) for more information.

### ***How do I get experience in a school?***

It is imperative to gain some recent in-school experience prior to interview; you will find your perspective as an adult will be very difficult to when you were a pupil yourself! Visiting schools to talk to teachers, observe lessons and speak with pupils will help you to discover what teaching today is really like. We would advise you to gain as wide a range of educational experiences as possible and therefore suggest you try to find a school where the experience will be very different from your own schooling. We require 10 days of recent school experience before starting the course.

Ring the Teaching Information Line on 0800 389 2500 for the school experience programme or visit the NCTL website at [www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching](http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching)

Check on the NCTL website for local events or taster courses to gain even more insight into the career.

### ***How can I get funding?***

Visit the finance page of the 'Get into Teaching' website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching> - for information about funding for ITT. You may be eligible for a maintenance grant towards your living costs and can apply to Student Finance England (SFE) or equivalent national bodies, for a loan for your tuition fees.

## **Entry Criteria**

### ***GCSE requirement***

All entrants must have achieved a minimum of a grade C, or equivalent standard, in English and Mathematics (including Science for Primary)

(Qualifications in key and functional skills at level 2 may represent the same level of attainment as GCSE grade C and above in the national qualifications framework (NQF). However, they are not equivalent to GCSEs in terms of content, and applications with key and functional skills certificates but without GCSEs at grade C or above in English and Mathematics must take the equivalency tests below) before application.

For equivalency information visit: <http://www.astarteachers.co.uk/default.asp>

## ***Degree requirement***

All entrants must hold a degree awarded by a United Kingdom higher education institution or equivalent qualification and at least 50% of your degree must be relative to the subject you want to teach. Primary trainees do not need a degree related to a specific subject.

You must have a first (bachelor's) degree with honours class 2.2 or above from a UK university, or an equivalent qualification. An honours degree comprises 360 HE credit points.

Please note that regulations require you to have a *qualification* worth 360 points or more, a points total aggregated from a number of standalone modules is not acceptable. The Higher Education Credit Framework gives further details of the level descriptors for academic study.

The National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC) can provide advice on the equivalence of overseas qualifications. UK NARIC can be contacted at: UK NARIC, Oriel House, Oriel Road, Cheltenham, GL50 1XP. Tel: 0870 990 4088; fax: 0870 990 1560. [www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk)

## ***Skills Tests***

You must pass the DfE professional skills tests in literacy and numeracy prior to entry to the course. You can have 3 attempts at each test – the first is free but there is a charge for the next two attempts.

After you have sent your applications to UCAS and you have received your Welcome letter, you need to book dates to take the skills tests on the Department for Education's website at [www.education.gov.uk/teachskillstests](http://www.education.gov.uk/teachskillstests)

You will need to take your Welcome letter to the test centre as evidence that you have already applied for teacher training.

Training providers may use skills tests' result to make a decision on your application, so you should aim to pass these tests as soon as possible after you have submitted your application to give yourself the best chance of obtaining a place.

For more information about the professional skills tests, visit [www.education.gov.uk/teachskillstests](http://www.education.gov.uk/teachskillstests)

## ***Tuition Fees***

Tuition fees for 2016/17 as agreed by OFFA for The Tommy Flowers SCITT MK are £9,000.

Assessment of students resident in England is carried out by Student Finance England which will be administered by the Student Loans Company; for those in Wales by the Local Education Authorities; for those student resident in Northern Ireland by Education and Library Boards; and for those students resident in Scotland by the Student Awards Agency of Scotland.

The appropriate authority will firstly determine whether you are eligible for means testing under this system and secondly the amount of Government support you should receive. This will depend on your own and, in most cases, your legal guardian's or spouse's/partner's income.

For further information, visit [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

Tuition Fee Loans:

Eligible students who have a personal liability for fees will be able to apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to cover these costs. This means that they won't have to find the money before they start their course or whilst they are studying, and the fees will be paid direct to their teacher training provider on their behalf by the Student Loans Company. There is no upper age limit imposed for tuition fee loans. This loan will be repaid once a student has left university and is earning £21,000.

Some students elect to pay their own fees which are due at the beginning of the course.

**EU** students who have come to the UK purely for the purpose of a Teacher Training Course (PGCE) will be eligible to apply for a Tuition Fee Loan. They will not be eligible for the Maintenance Loan or Maintenance Grant.

Students should apply on form EU11N for the Tuition Fee Loan at:  
[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance-eu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance-eu)

## ***Student Support***

Student support is available for new students starting full-time postgraduate ITT courses. You can usually apply online for student loans etc from March.

Please visit [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance) for current information.

Fee Support

- New students starting full-time postgraduate ITT courses will be eligible for a non means-tested loan for fees of up to £9,000.

Living Cost Support

- New students starting full-time postgraduate ITT courses will be able to apply for a fully means-tested Maintenance Grant.

- New full-time ITT Students will also be entitled to apply for a full rate loan for living costs.
- New full-time ITT students who are in principle eligible for means tested benefits from the Department for Work and Pensions will be able to apply for means-tested Special Support Grant. Students who are eligible for the Special Support Grant will not be eligible for the Maintenance Grant. The amount of Special Support Grant payable will be assessed in the same way as for the Maintenance Grant. However, students who receive the Special Support Grant will not have any of their loans for living costs reduced.

## ***Finance – Bursaries***

For the latest training bursaries for 2016/17 please visit:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/funding/postgraduate-funding>

## ***Assessment***

Over your training year your progress as a teacher will be assessed in a variety of ways, all of which will support your development as a reflective and novice teacher. Assessment components include:

**A Teaching Standards Portfolio** – this is a form of continuous assessment; over the year you will collect evidence from all areas of the course to demonstrate that you have met the necessary standards to achieve Qualified Teacher Status by the end of the course.

**Teaching File** – collection of lesson plans, lesson resources and assessments of students for each of your classes on both placements.

**Progress File** – this includes half termly assessments and evidence of formal lesson observations. These will be undertaken by experienced colleagues who will offer supportive feedback to help you to continue to improve your teaching. Mentor meeting records are also evidenced and collated.

**A Subject Knowledge File** – a collection of evidence to demonstrate that you have gained sufficient knowledge and understanding regarding your subject specialism to be able to teach it convincingly. You will be able to make links to knowledge already gained during your degree or post-degree study for during relevant employment.

**Written Assignments** – these consist of a mixture of formal essays and research-based investigation, linking your day-to-day teaching experience to educational theory.

## ***Subjects and UCAS codes***

For 2016/17 The Tommy Flowers SCITT MK will offer training in the following subjects:

(subject code for UCAS)

Subject	SCITT UCAS CODE	School Direct UCAS CODE
Computer Science	2G99	24KX
Design & Technology	2G9G	2G9M
English	2G84	24K7
History	2G9C	24L5
Mathematics	2G89	24JX
Modern Foreign Languages	2G98	24KS
Biology	2G95	24KM
Chemistry	2G8Z	24KH
Physics	2G8Q	24KD
Geography	2G9F	24L6
PE	2NZK	2NZM
RE	2NZL	2NZN
Primary	2NWV	2NTY
Primary (salaried)	-	2NWT

### ***Making an application:***

To make an application to the cluster of secondary schools in Milton Keynes for the Tommy Flowers SCITT Milton Keynes or the Denbigh Teaching School Alliance (School Direct) go to the UCAS website:

<http://www.ucas.com/apply/teacher-training>

An applicant can apply to our provision through two avenues on UCAS :

- The Tommy Flowers SCITT Milton Keynes
- Denbigh Teaching School Alliance (School Direct)

They are the same course/programme and there is no difference in the provision or qualification. Applicants should only apply to one of our programmes.

For further application clarification contact Gaynor Garton: gartong@denbigh.net