



Report by the NWSCITT Accounting Officer following the recent Ofsted inspection.

The North Wiltshire SCITT lived up to its vision 'to produce outstanding teachers who will ensure their students, whatever their starting point, thrive in all aspects of education. Our trainee teachers will value developing the whole person equally to the achievement of academic success' when it gained **Outstanding** in every category in its recent Ofsted.

This is a fabulous achievement for not only those involved in the inspection process, but absolutely everyone linked to the SCITT, from trainees to Headteachers of partnership schools. But most of all to the central team superbly led by Rhi and Kate with subject and phase leads, local experts, mentors and professional tutors all playing vital roles in the development of our outstanding new teachers.

The inspection period began in June and finally ended on 22nd November. Many thanks to all those who met the inspectors, were observed by the inspectors or fed back in front of inspectors. Ofsted is very stressful time even for the most experienced teachers and leaders. Huge praise needs to go to our trainees, NQTs and mentors who were under enormous pressure and produced outstanding results. One trainee even managed to drop in this magical line "The Provider has given me all the skills I need to teach well."

In the final grading session they said trainee outcomes were Outstanding. NQTs were consistent, competent professionals who demonstrated a deep commitment and always put children first. They plan, prepare and teach well. NQTs have strong impact on pupil progress and outcomes.

The quality of training was graded Outstanding. Their first few comments were that the course/programme was of a very high quality with knowledgeable and credible phase/subject leads. The SCITT makes use of expertise across the partnership in leading a variety of sessions. They finished by saying that our NQTs are risk takers, stimulators of learning and they cannot praise their training enough.

On leadership and management they said it sits beautifully in Outstanding. Again their first few comments summed it all up saying that there was a determination from all of wanting to provide the highest quality of training, there is rigorous QA and self-evaluation and its exceptional capacity to improve as demonstrated by improvements from Stage 1.

They finished by saying to us that these judgements were very clear, they were in bold and there was no doubt. This is a wonderful commendation for our individual teachers, trainers and SCITT employees. It is fabulous recognition for every school, our cluster, our Teaching Alliance and the wider partnership that is the NWSCITT.

As Accounting Officer and Chair of the Management Board it is an absolute privilege to be part of the NWSCITT and to help in a small way to train people to join the best profession in the world.

Thank you Rhi, Kate, Rhiannon and Team NWSCITT.

George Croxford

NWSCITT Accounting Officer



Teach Meet

Thursday 8th March 2018

4:30-6:30pm

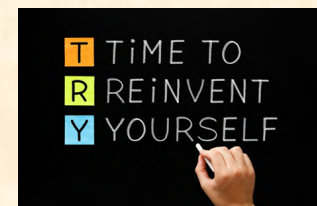
North Wiltshire Teacher Education Centre

Following the successful event earlier this year, we will again be holding a TeachMeet on 8th March 2018, 4:30-6:30pm.

The TeachMeet is aimed at NWSCITT alumni, although is also open to NQTs/recently qualified teachers from the local area so you are welcome to bring any colleagues along with you. Our current trainees are also invited.

TeachMeets are a great way of sharing good practice and meeting new people in a relaxed and informal setting. You are encouraged to present (although you do not have to) one idea that works for you and has led to progress of your students, improved behaviour etc. Each talk lasts just 2-3 minutes and focusses on this one strategy. You are welcome to come and just listen if you don't feel comfortable presenting.

Light refreshments will be served. Please email Rhiannon (rhayden@rwba.org.uk) if you would like to add your name to the list. Please also say if you will be presenting (and your idea) or whether you would like to just listen. We hope to see as many of you as possible.



A reflection of training and NQT year ...

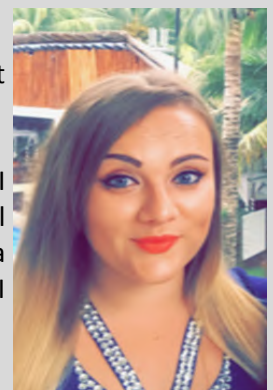
"I started my teaching journey with the NWSCITT and it was so rewarding yet challenging at times.

The time came when jobs were being released for the new school year and I must admit, I visited a few before I found a school I just had to work at! I was always told that a school would just feel right but after a while I thought it would never happen, until I visited a school that adopts the Enquiry Based Learning approach (EBL). I applied for the job and I was delighted when I was told the job was mine!

During my NQT year I worked very closely with my Key Stage Lead to ensure my practice was as good as it could be. I also supported my Key Stage Lead to role out EBL across Years 2 and 3 which was a resounding success. As EBL was a huge passion of mine, I requested to lead it during my second year of teaching and my request was granted. My Key Stage Lead's maternity leave was fast approaching which meant there was a vacancy for Acting Key Stage Lead. I applied for the position and I was successful. I am pleased to say I have been Acting Key Stage Lead for a term and I am thoroughly enjoying the role. It is of course a lot more work but it is so rewarding and a fantastic opportunity to gain more skills!

The best piece of advice I would give is that teaching is like balancing plates daily; you just need to prioritise what plates need to keep spinning and what plates can stop for a day (or two!)."

Naomi Thompson



North Wiltshire Federation Book Review

By Nick Reach
Teacher of History & EPQ Coordinator
Royal Wootton Bassett Academy

The fast-approaching Christmas break provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on our practice. This can sometimes be difficult to achieve in term time, as we juggle the tasks on our full to do lists. This is why I was grateful for the opportunity to join the North West Federation's book club. In our first meeting we read and discussed Daisy Christodoulou's controversial book *Seven Myths about Education*. The book has attracted praise and criticism in equal measure. Assessment for Learning guru Dylan Wiliam states that *Seven Myths* "may well be the most important book of the decade in teaching" in his forward.

The book certainly does what it says on the tin: it tears into many ideas which are generally accepted as true. The author describes the following as myths: facts prevent understanding; teacher-led instruction is passive; the twenty-first century fundamentally changes everything; you can always just look it up; we should teach transferable skills; projects and activities are the best way to learn; and teaching knowledge constitutes indoctrination.

Christodoulou holds that these myths have heavily influenced the national curriculum, and Ofsted inspection reports have, therefore, made more favourable judgements of lessons which support these so-called myths. It is argued that these widely held beliefs are often forwarded with the best of intentions, but hold pupils and teachers back, nevertheless. The book is a persuasive attack on what have become orthodox views in the maintained sector. Whatever your views on the issues that the author raises, it is well worth reading.

When Adults Change, Everything Changes by Paul Dix was our final text for 2017. The book is about more than simply behaviour management strategies: it is about changing the culture of schools to more effectively manage student behaviour. As the title suggests, the author argues that there is much that a school's staff can do to take a lead in the creation of a climate of positive behaviour within their school.

We all know that it is our responsibility to model the behaviour that we expect from our students, but Dix takes it to another level completely. He argues that we should shake hands with every student as they enter our classroom, and encourage students to practice something that he calls 'fantastic walking', a military-style march.

His argument for consistency and simplicity in a school's behaviour policy is more convincing. Dix believes that behaviour policy should not be larger than students and staff can remember off by heart. He echoes the views of Tom Bennet, who is an author and currently an advisor on behaviour to the Department for Education. Both argue that keeping it simple ensures no misunderstandings and greater acceptance by students and staff alike.

Dix provides some useful tools for gauging student understanding of a school's behaviour policy. For example, his eighteen question student survey would be useful in most schools for uncovering any mismatch between what a school expects of its students and what its students believe is expected of them. A policy which is clear and simply written can only encourage better behaviour.

The club is open to all teachers at North West Federation schools. If you're looking for an opportunity to discuss the latest thinking in education I recommend that you attend. The next meeting is on Wednesday 7th February. Our next book is *The Learning Rainforest* by Tom Sherrington. To attend the next meeting please email the club's coordinator, Nicola Brooks nbrooks@springfields.wilts.sch.uk. Meetings are held at The Springfields Academy in Calne. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Nick Reach

Dec 2017





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