



National College for Teaching & Leadership

School Direct bulletin

Dear

Welcome to the February issue of your essential School Direct update.

I would like to thank everyone who responded to the ITT recruitment survey. In response, some of you will be receiving additional advice to help fill your vacancies. For those of you who haven't yet responded, we will be in touch with you shortly.

If you have School Direct places you still need to fill, don't miss our guidance in this bulletin.

As always, we really appreciate the feedback we get from you, so if you have any comments or views please email TA.RESOURCEBANK@education.gsi.gov.uk.

Charlie Taylor

Chief Executive, National College for Teaching and Leadership

General information

We have refreshed the circulation list for the School Direct bulletin. Those listed as the partnership contact on the Allocations Request Management System (ARMS) will receive the bulletin. Please forward it on to other colleagues who you need to share it with.

Recruitment

School experience programme (SEP)

SEP is a government funded opportunity for quality prospective teachers in shortage subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, languages, design and technology and computing) to gain experience in a school prior to starting their ITT. The programme provides your schools the chance to increase your recruitment pool of quality teachers.

80% of School Direct lead schools who are engaged in SEP use it to meet potential applicants for their School Direct places. SEP schools will have candidates directed to them by the Teaching Line, as well as

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funding up to £50 per placement day.

If you would like to join SEP please contact the team at the Teaching Line on 0800 085 0962. See our [website for more information and how to register](#).

Subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) programmes

There are many good candidates who will become great teachers with a little extra help to improve their subject knowledge. [SKE programmes](#) can be do-it-yourself, allowing you more flexibility so you can arrange your own programmes in-house.

Specialist leaders of education (SLE) directory for SKE

SLEs are outstanding middle and senior leaders who have the skills to support people in similar positions in other schools. Many SLEs have excellent knowledge in particular subject areas and could help you when developing SKE programmes.

There are now over 3,800 SLEs and a full list of all their specialisms by teaching school can be found in the [SLE directory](#).

SKE directory available

SKE is available for a number of subjects, including modern and ancient languages, design and technology and physics. Please see the [SKE directory](#) for a full list of available subjects.

SKE funding request changes

We have listened to feedback about the SKE funding request process and we are changing it to make it easier for schools and providers. Where a lead school or provider chooses, they can now ask for SKE funding to be paid directly to their SKE provider. The [SKE operations manual](#) has been updated.

Marketing resource bank

Advertise your remaining places on Facebook

Don't miss the opportunity to advertise your remaining ITT places on our [Get into teaching Facebook](#) page. Our Facebook page currently has an audience of over 65,000 people interested in teaching and offers great opportunities to increase visibility of schools' courses and raise the profile of your school.

We can't post anything on behalf your school but you can use your own school's Facebook account and add a post (from your account) onto our wall at www.facebook.com/getintoteaching.

Be creative! But don't forget to include in this post:

- information about what places are still currently available i.e. subjects and numbers of places left
- whether you offer a PGCE as part of their course and which university/provider you work with
- a link/contact where candidates can find out more information about the course

Promote your events to candidates on our website

We know you use events as a way to promote and recruit to your School Direct places. So we want to help you promote these events.

Did you know you can:

- send us your event details for candidates for our [what's on where website](#) by completing the [what's on where event form](#) and emailing this to whatson.where@education.gsi.gov.uk
- you can request our teacher training publications for your events by completing the [event materials request form](#) and emailing this to taeventmaterials@prolog.co.uk
- print off of this [routes into teaching fact sheet](#) to use at your events

Marketing best practice survey results

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. It was clear from the responses that 85% want more support for your recruitment marketing, including the top responses:

- more frequent 'top tips' for marketing style emails
- marketing focused training e.g. social media and press

We will be aiming to provide more of this type of support so look out for information on these in future bulletins.

In the meantime if you would like to volunteer to be involved in training, an online seminar or a potential 'marketing' buddy for a school that would like some support, please email ta.resourcebank@education.gsi.gov.uk.

UCAS

Making offers to candidates

The partnership agreement with your provider should cover the process for making offers to candidates, including your respective responsibilities to ensure that all aspects of the [ITT criteria](#) are met.

Providers retain final accountability for ensuring their entry criteria are met so schools should follow the process agreed in the partnership agreement prior to making an offer.

For further information please see section 3 of the [2014/15 operations manual](#).

UCAS profile update

When was the last time you made sure that your school partnership details were up-to-date on UCAS? This information will improve your chances of attracting interested candidates for your places.

If you have questions about how best to do this please contact the UCAS on 0844 984 1111 or email at hei_team@ucas.ac.uk.

School Direct allocations – change requests

Changes to a lead school's allocation of School Direct places must be confirmed by NCTL before being advertised on UCAS. Decisions on the change request will be made within 5 working days upon provider agreement. Please contact itt.allocations@education.gsi.gov.uk if you have any queries.

Have you seen?

[Patrick Garton on leading school-led training](#) – in the first of a series of blogs, Patrick, Teaching School Director at The Cherwell School, shares his experience of a school-led system.

[Read Rachel Foley's story](#) – after successfully completing her physics with maths PGCE, a new science and maths teacher starts her career at Thomas Knyvett College in Ashford.

[School websites – how do you use yours?](#) – join the new discussion in the School Direct online community and share your views.

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