

Schools Newsletter



[Learn Together](#) | [Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Greetings!

I was interviewing a potential teacher intern yesterday, who remarked that her university tutor had recommended she apply for the Graduate Teacher Programme. Excellent advice except the GTP no longer exists. So I thought it might be helpful to make you aware of the ITT routes that are currently available - there is a bewildering array of them, and they do change periodically.

Essentially, there are two types of institution which can offer initial teacher training: a university or a SCITT (School-Centred Initial Teacher Training provider). In Cambridgeshire we have two universities and five SCITTs offering placements to trainees. Details of the providers and the programmes they offer can be found here.

The most common routes are university based PGCEs, and the SCITTs' school direct (SD) and salaried school direct (SSD) routes. In all these, trainees are placed in schools either for blocks of time or throughout the year, and build up their teaching practice while receiving pedagogical input from their trainers. The cost to the trainee is currently £9250 for the year, although bursaries are available to some secondary trainees, and the SSD route (again, mainly only available to secondary trainees) pays a salary. In order for a trainee to receive a salary otherwise, they would need to be on an Assessment Only or Non-Supported SSD route, both of which require them to be employed in a school as an unqualified teacher; or they could apply to be an apprentice teacher.

Quick Links

[Education Directorate Structure Diagram](#)

[SRIB Priorities for SSIF R3](#)

[Cambs Learn Together](#)

[Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

[Complete Cambs CPD Listing](#)

[Early Years](#)

[Maths and English Advice](#)

[Knowledge Hub](#)

[Help With Recruitment?](#)

Reminder

Don't forget to complete the online

That probably hasn't made things much clearer..... however, more details are available on our [website](#), and it is worth drawing it to the attention of anyone you know - perhaps a current member of your support staff or a parent - who might be interested in gaining QTS.

survey on Asbestos Management at your school [here](#).

[Helen Manley](#) Senior Advisor

Changes to Free School Meals (FSM) for families on or going on to Universal Credit as from 1 April 2018

Effective from 1 April 2018, the new income threshold for families on Universal Credit, for **Free School Meals (FSM)** will be £7,400 net (take home pay).

Please can we ask you all to encourage all parents, who have haven't applied before, to complete a **Free School Meals (FSM) form**.

This can be done via your School Admission Form or [here](#) on our website.

If you have any queries about the changes or general enquiries about Free School Meals, please contact EWB.FSM@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or 01223 703200.

There is also guidance from the DfE available [here](#)

Local Offer for SEND

Services and support available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) from birth to age 25 and their families.



Adult Mental Health First Aid

Embedding a positive approach to mental health and wellbeing is well recognised as having long term benefits for our staff. Locally we congratulate Juliet Adloune, an LA Improvement Adviser who has trained to be an Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor. The Chief Medical officer estimates that around 70 million working days are lost every year because of mental ill health, costing Britain between £70 billion and £100 billion. One in four people in the UK will experience a mental health issue in any given year; this includes adults within schools.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an internationally recognised training course, designed to teach people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health and provide help on a first aid basis. In the same way as learning physical first aid, MHFA teaches people how to recognise those crucial warning signs of mental ill health and to listen, reassure and respond, even in a crisis.

Research and evaluation shows that taking part in an MHFA course:

- Raises awareness and mental health literacy
- Reduces stigma around mental ill health
- Boosts knowledge and confidence in dealing with mental health issues
- Promotes early intervention which enables recovery.

These courses have been published in the Primary Offer Course Booklet, but if you

have any queries or you would like to reserve a place, please contact Juliet.Adloune@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

School Governance - Recruiting Again

Many governing bodies have reported difficulties in recruiting a high quality clerk to governors. In response to this growing need, the [School Governance Team](#) has made the decision to start recruiting once again to the Camclerk Service. Having already completed one successful recruitment round, which attracted some high calibre candidates, we have just launched another. If you are interested in finding out how our clerking service can support your school, please email: anna-marie.cooper@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Governance Conference Review - Ambitious Leadership

This was the focus of the Governance Conference held on Saturday 24 March at Swavesey Village College. Over 100 people involved in governance, including headteachers, governors, trustees and clerks, attended this successful event. Jon Lewis the new Service Director for Education started by outlining his 10 year vision for education across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This was followed by a range of speakers covering interesting topics such as; leading a change in governance, recruiting governors through collaboration, building positive working relationships, and governance for vulnerable groups. The presentations are available in the School Governance Group, on the Learn Together Hub: <https://khub.net/learntogether>

Future Teaching Scholars programme - recruiting A level students now

The [Future Teaching Scholars](#) programme is designed for maths and physics A level students with predicted grades of B or above; students must select a maths or physics related degree at an English university, and be interested in a career in teaching.

In return for a commitment to teaching, participants receive a £15,000 grant whilst studying their degree, and classroom experience to prepare them for teaching. After graduating, participants go onto bespoke employment-based teacher training, earning while they learn, working in schools from day one and receive additional support for 2 years.

The programme is now recruiting for students planning to start their undergraduate degree in autumn 2018.

To receive a promotional pack for your school, contact info@futureteachingscholars.com.

Cambridgeshire County Council external audit

Cambridgeshire County Council are currently working on the 2017/18 external audit with our auditors, BDO, and this includes us contacting schools for information requested by the auditors. This work is likely to continue until June or July but requests for information will not be continuous during this period. The external audit is a statutorily required annual process, although the timescales for completion of the audit have been shortened significantly from this financial year onwards.

You may have already received some requests and been concerned about the authenticity of these. If so, we apologise that this communication was not sent to you in advance of those queries.

The Finance team working on the audit are part of LGSS, the council's shared service arrangement for delivering a number of support functions. As a result, the requests you receive will be from LGSS staff and may be from either a Cambridgeshire County

Council email address (xxx.xxx@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or a Northamptonshire County Council email address (xxx@northamptonshire.gov.uk).

With regards to deadlines for responding to queries, the council has agreed a protocol with BDO that responses to audit queries raised in June/July are to be provided within one working day. This is a challenging deadline, but necessary in order for the audit work to be completed within the new, shortened statutory deadlines. As such, a prompt response from schools to any audit queries is required. However, it is understood that schools may have part-time Finance/Secretarial staff and in such cases a response is expected within one working day of the relevant individual. Any data requests or queries raised prior to June will advise of the relevant deadline for that particular request/query.

Schools' contact information

The way that school contact information is managed by the Local Authority is changing. We would like to take this opportunity to ensure we have your most up to date information. Please click [here](#) to complete a smart survey, we ask you to complete this by Wednesday 2nd May 2018.

Please continue to keep us updated of any changes in the future by email to administration.supportteam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Countdown to GDPR

As we're all aware, on May 25th the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) come into force, sweeping away the old 1998 Data Protection Act (DPA) and ushering in a new era in data protection. Or will it? To judge from the hype and scaremongering from various parts of the press and some suppliers you'd be forgiven for thinking that the Information Commissioner herself would come knocking on the school door to check up.

But of course nothing could be further from the truth. The Information Commissioner has made it quite clear that the ICO is keen to see organisations comply with the new laws but is more interested in using carrots than sticks.

The Council's advice is that schools should take this seriously but in proportion to the risk. Which means the first step is to assess the risk. The Council's Information Governance team and The ICT Service have worked out a process that schools can use to [prepare for GDPR](#). The GDPR Toolkit is freely available on Knowledge Hub or on request from The ICT Service.

In many ways, the new GDPR is very like the old DPA and schools that already had good data protection in place will have little to fear from GDPR. However there are areas where the new Regulation tightens up on the old Act, for example the need to appoint a Data Protection Officer to oversee data protection in a school.

Most schools have already made strides towards the goal of compliance. Significant numbers are making use of the services on offer from [The ICT Service](#) while others are doing this for themselves or using other third parties. However if your school has done very little then now is the time to act - there is still time to make good progress. [The ICO's website](#) is also a good place to search for guidance, much of it aimed at the education sector.

Horizon scanning

[Ofsted News: Maintained schools and academies inspections and outcomes as at 31 August 2017](#)

Data on maintained schools and academies covers April to August 2017 (provisional) and September 2016 to March 2017 (revised). The Word, PDF and HTML versions of

the 'Maintained schools and academies inspections and outcomes as at 31 August 2017: main findings' document have been republished for this release. A correction has been made to the last sentence of the 'Inspections between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017' section. It now reads 'Conversion rates were higher for secondary schools than primary schools: 38% compared with 28%'. Figures for primary and secondary schools were transposed in the versions published previously.

Evidence Based Papers All Teachers Should Read - [@LeadingLearner](#)

[Department for Education Funding to support breakfast clubs](#)

On 19th March, the DfE announced a £26 million fund to support breakfast clubs in over 1,770 schools across England.

The fund for extra breakfast provision will come from the Government's soft drinks industry levy and will be targeted at the most disadvantaged areas of the country, including the Department for Education's Opportunity Areas.

[Teachers' student loan reimbursement scheme](#)

This scheme aims to increase recruitment and retention for teachers of biology, chemistry, computer science, languages and physics.

From September 2019, all eligible ITT trainees and teachers who are in years 1 to 5 of their careers, can apply for a reimbursement on their student loan payments for up to 10 academic years following the year of their qualified teacher status (QTS) award. The first academic year for which teachers can claim is 2018 to 2019.

Click the heading for further information including full eligibility criteria, payment rates and the application process and, for queries, please contact financial.incentives@education.gov.uk.

[Key Stage 1 and 2 Assessment Information for Parents](#)

An information leaflet and videos for parents about end of key stage assessments (often referred to as SATs) for 7 and 11 year olds has been produced by the Standards and Testing Agency. To download the leaflet and view the videos, click [here](#).

[Support for disadvantaged families during the holidays](#)

New funding for organisations to research ways of supporting disadvantaged families during the school holidays has been launched. The £2 million investment will go towards exploring how best to help the most disadvantaged children to benefit from healthy meals and enriching activities.

[Spain's Visiting Teachers programme - support to recruit languages teachers](#)

NCTL and its partner [Randstad Public Services Ltd](#) is offering a free of charge service to support schools to recruit languages teachers from a pool of Spanish teachers, recruited from Spain for placement in English schools; the only cost to schools is the teacher's salary.

Teachers recruited through Spain's Visiting Teachers programme have been rigorously assessed and interviewed by English head teachers, and must have QTS before

starting in school in England. They receive an extensive acclimatisation package of pre-arrival support, on-arrival residential event and continuing professional development. Register [here](#) to find out more.

Innovations in Education

The [HundrED](#) is a not-for-profit organisation that started in Finland and is now global, that draws together Educational Innovations from across the world. HundrED's goal is to help improve education and inspire a grassroots movement through encouraging pedagogically sound, ambitious innovations to spread across the world.

We are sharing some of the innovations on the CSIB page - these are not recommendations but schools might be interested in evaluating them to see if they work for them. Please let Rachel Snape, head@spinney.cambs.sch.uk know if you would like more information, or would like to share an innovation with others.

Ofsted: developments in education inspection - [changes to the school inspection window](#).

New appointments

Wilburton C of E Primary School has appointed David Aston as the new Headteacher from September 2018.

Cheveley C of E Primary School has appointed Stacy Kendall as the new Headteacher from September 2018.

Governance Issues for Consideration - Summer Term 2018

[List of Governance Issues for Consideration](#) - Summer Term 2018. This information is particularly relevant for agenda setting and provides items/updates for consideration/review in the light of statutory requirements and local decisions. They may be considered by the full governing body/committees/working groups or named governors, depending on individual schools' arrangements for the management of governing body business.

The document has also been uploaded to the Cambridgeshire School Governance Hub. This document should be read in conjunction with the Reminders/Additional Information and Yearly Planner documents located on the Hub - only available to schools subscribing to the School Governance Team SLA. Please click on the link to register and join our group: <https://khub.net/learntogether>, a [How to Guide](#) has also been produced to help you register and make the most of the Hub.

Schools' concerns over finance management changes

We are aware that some schools have raised concern about Finance staff with '@northamptonshire.gov.uk' email addresses contacting you with reference to financial information regarding your school or information required by the Council's external auditors BDO. Please be assured that these email contacts and requests for information are legitimate and should be responded to in the same way as any member of staff with an '@cambridgeshire.gov.uk' email address.

To provide you with some wider context schools will be aware that CCC is one of the joint partners of LGSS - a joint committee arrangement with Northampton and Milton Keynes providing back office support services. In 2016 a revised target operating model within LGSS was put in place which created an Integrated Finance Service operating

across all three of the host partner authorities of LGSS.

The Integrated Finance Service provides finance services to each partner authority in respect of Schools Finance (both traded and corporate / strategic), closure of accounts and treasury management / taxation. The Integrated Finance Service is made up of staff from all 3 of the partner authorities who will be working on aspects of Schools Finance and closure of accounts and may from time to time need to contact you or request information from you. Any requests for information made from Cambridgeshire schools will be in respect of the business and requirements of CCC. However as schools have picked up requests may come from staff in the Integrated Finance Service with different email addresses depending on who their employing organisation is. CCC has recently been subject to an interim audit by BDO which is why requests for information will have been made in recent months. We will be moving into the final audit in June so please also be prepared for requests from us to satisfy the external auditors where needed.

If you are in any doubt at all about the authenticity of an email from the Integrated Finance Service requesting information please contact the Head of Integrated Finance Services, Jon Lee (jolee@northamptonshire.gov.uk) who will be able to advise.

Jon Lee, Head of Integrated Finance Services

Do you need clinical advice to support Emotional Health and Wellbeing in your school?

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Practitioners Team can help. We are a team of 9 clinicians all with experience of working with children and young people. We have two main aims:

- "System Navigators": to support professionals (education, health, and social care) access the right evidence-based service at the earliest opportunity, ensuring personalised support and the best outcomes.
- To work with schools to help to improve the general emotional health and wellbeing of their pupils.

Contact us on 0300 555 50 60 (9.30am - 4.30pm) [Email](#) or for more information go to our [Website](#).

Training Courses, Events and Conferences

For a list of all current training courses provided by the Local Authority and Teaching schools [click here](#).

Ideal as a package to support enrichment and FREE to all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Schools/Colleges, Cambs Drive iQ is a set of 15 online modules aimed at Year 12 students. They will learn how to improve skills such as anticipating danger, hazard detection, risk management and eye scanning.



For more information please contact [Cheryl Morgan](#) or Tel 07771 980103

[East of England & NE London System Leadership Conference: Collaborate to Innovate](#)

[Thursday 3 May 2018, 09.30 to 16.00, Wellcome Genome Conference Centre.](#)

[Cambridge. Exploring new ways of school to school support.](#)

[Talking Partners](#)

Tuesday 15 May 2018 and Tuesday 22 May, 9:30 to 15.00, ECaR Centre, Stanton House, Huntingdon. From £315. TalkingPartners@Primary is a targeted intervention designed to improve the way children communicate across the curriculum, enabling them to become independent and skillfull speakers and listeners.

[Write Away Together](#)

Thursday 17 May 2018, 9:30 to 15:00, ECaR Centre, Stanton House, Huntingdon. From £170. The course will focus on how to use feedback to improve writing. As an intervention, Write Away Together sessions can be led by a teacher or a teaching assistant.

[Child Sexual Abuse - Thinking the Unthinkable - Annual Conference 2018](#)

Friday 8 June 2018, 09.00 (for 09.30) to 15.30, Deafblind Conference Centre, Cygnet Road, Peterborough, PE7 8FD. Free to attend. Providing an update for professionals on Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse.

[NGA Leading Governance Programmes](#)

The School Governance Team is working with the NGA to offer funded Leading Governance programmes for Chairs and Clerks in Cambridgeshire this term. For more information click the heading above.

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