

September 2017

Hi all, I'm Beth and I have just started my Physical Education teacher training with the Yorkshire Teaching Schools Alliance (YTSA). Every month I will be blogging about my journey as a trainee teacher and my experience with the alliance.

A little bit on my background; I graduated from Northumbria University back in 2012 and still wasn't entirely sure on the career path I wanted to pursue. I then got a job at a secondary school and worked there for four years where I gained a lot of experience and observed a lot of outstanding teachers that really motivated me to make a career from inspiring and educating children. When applying for my teacher training, YTSA stood out from the crowd, they are professional, welcoming and very supportive. This year there are 40 trainees within the alliance from four different universities and we have weekly training sessions with experienced practitioners guiding us and advising us through our training.

On September 13th we had our first session of the year as a cohort, it was really great to finally get to meet everyone and get excited about the year ahead. I believe our weekly meetings are going to be really beneficial, not only are we being trained and educated on teaching as a career, but we are also being supported by other aspiring teachers who all have the same worries and apprehensions as ourselves. We got straight into business and discussed one of the most important roles from a school; safeguarding we discussed the importance of safeguarding and how safeguarding can be promoted through teaching and learning. We then went on to a session regarding teaching as a profession and how to be professional, all tips and advice that we will use throughout our careers as teachers. Over lunch we met our YTSA mentors and discussed any queries we had and After lunch we had a session on observing lessons and what to take from them, which I think we all found really beneficial, as we will all have an observation week in our first placement school to really understand the running of the schools and expectations for lessons.

After our induction week, we all had a week at a primary school; understanding how teachers get their KS2 students prepared for secondary school and that jump to KS3. Then on the 27th September there was a session on national priorities, which unfortunately I missed due to university commitments.

So far what I have learnt/gained so far:

- The staff at St Aidan's and YTSA are brilliant, they are really welcoming and helpful and will go out of their way to support us as trainees.
- To stay on top of my work and work load, don't leave things until last minute, every free opportunity from university/ the alliance take and get planning/ prepare yourself.
- It's going to be a really tough year with a lot of work, but so rewarding and worth it in the end (note to self- I will need reminding of this a lot during the year!)
- We are going to learn so much and get sent a lot of information, make sure you have a safe place to store/ save it all!!!