

A word from the YTSA Director of Teacher Training

Welcome to everyone involved with ITT at YTSA as we embark on a new academic year 2020 - 21. In particular, we welcome our new cohort of trainees who are taking their first steps into the profession in the coming days and weeks and also new mentors who embark on this valuable role for the first time. At this time, we also pass on our regards and best wishes to last year's cohort who will be embarking on their new teaching careers. We recognize that being an NQT after the disruption and challenges encountered during their PGCE year just passed will not be easy. We will continue to offer our support and help where we can.

Our School Direct course enables us to work closely with three local Universities to provide a programme that brings together their skills and resources as well as our school based expertise. This valuable relationship has proved highly effective in creating a challenging and supportive programme for our trainees. We are confident that the training that we provide enables trainee teachers to gain the skills and qualities required to be outstanding teachers. All of our trainees will benefit from experiencing a range of opportunities in varied and contrasting YTSA schools as well as their own YTSA senior mentor who will guide them every step of the way.

Thank you to our mini army of Mentors whose work is very highly valued and greatly appreciated. Please can we encourage all of you to attend Mentor Training at University in the coming weeks. This is a crucial element of ensuring the highest quality training and part of the contract that we hold with our University partners. Our Senior Mentors and myself look forward to visiting and supporting yourselves and the trainees in the coming weeks and months. Training for this year is also likely to have its challenges due to Covid restrictions and adaptations. We will endeavor to maintain our close relationships with trainees even though some of our normal 'face to face' training may not be possible. If we all apply our qualities and skills and remain optimistic, there is no reason why this year can't be as enjoyable and productive as any other.

For those who are considering a career in teaching starting next September in the **2021 - 2022** cohort, the UCAS search engine goes live on the **6th October 2020**. We will begin to receive applications from the **13th October 2020**. We welcome all enquiries about the teaching course, however large or small therefore please contact YTSA at the following email address admin@yorkshiretsa.co.uk.

All good wishes for the academic year.

Warm regards,

David Holdsworth
YTSA Director of Teacher Training