

Studying for my school-led PGCE is allowing me to acquire substantial experience within the classroom, alongside the opportunity to observe lessons, assess student work and gain instant feedback that I apply within my classes. I began my PGCE with Rutlish in September 2019 and have recently started my second placement at Ursuline. Currently, I teach KS3, KS4 and KS5, wherein I create challenging and creative lessons for all of my classes as well as differentiated worksheets for SEN and EAL pupils to access their English studies with greater ease. I have designed assessment questions, organised and led feedback lessons for formative and summative feedback. Additionally, I have supported pupils with individualised feedback sessions in order to improve their attainment. Furthermore, I am responsible for a KS5 tutor group, in which I design engaging activities including discussions on current events, debate questions, quizzes and charity awareness sessions.

I have made assessments for my placement schools and have developed my own schemes of work, focusing primarily on key themes for time management and applying a strategy of visiting and then revisiting each topic within an interleaving method. Beyond teaching what is needed for assessment, my schemes of work emphasise the key skills which the students need throughout their English education.

In terms of behaviour management, teachers need to be approachable but also respected. Within this, I use engaging lessons and creative approaches to help minimise disruptive behaviours. I always aim to give pupils my clear expectations of them in order to establish an organised classroom environment. I have taught EAL and SEN pupils whilst working closely with TAs and LSAs. Alongside learning from interactions with staff and pupils, I regularly seek training opportunities to expand my knowledge, build on my skills and enhance my teaching style.

Before my PGCE, I sought out as much experience working within education as possible, ranging from tutoring and mentoring in school subjects and guitar lessons to hosting residential summer schools and presenting museum talks aimed at school trips. As such, I am eager to take on new roles alongside teaching English. With my Classics degree, I am intrigued by a wide range of literary, philosophical and historical perspectives. At my placement school, I enjoy leading my own Classics Club and assisting with a Creative Writing Club as well, which has helped me to build a rapport with pupils and get to know them as individuals. As a recent university graduate, my experience gives me an in-depth understanding and current knowledge of UCAS application trends, course expectations and student welfare, all of which I have applied to seminars designed for sixth form students who are considering university options.

My strong academic and interpersonal skills have enabled me to motivate pupils in creative and challenging ways throughout my PGCE. I believe that student engagement is the cornerstone for achievement, so I have developed my lesson planning to incorporate the use of multiple forms of media, drama and interactive activities. Teaching a wide range of classes has enhanced my ability to differentiate my lessons and to make them accessible for all pupils. I understand the importance of a student's academic foundation and how this has lifelong impacts and I strive to help every pupil reach their full potential.