

RTSA News

Connolly Foundation invests in teachers for the future

We continue at RTSA to work closely with and benefit from the continued support of the Connolly Foundation. It's not just school pupils which benefit from the Connolly Foundation, but future teachers as well.



Students who opt to study for a postgraduate teaching qualification at Redborne School, (school direct) in conjunction with the University of Bedfordshire, are eligible for a £1,000 grant whilst training. If they qualify and subsequently take up a full time teaching position in Central Beds, they will receive a further £1000 grant and will be eligible to apply for subsidised accommodation, in a new housing development built by Connolly Homes.

Nigel Croft, a trustee of the Connolly Foundation and former Principal of Redborne School is delighted that the foundation is offering this support to students.

“The Connolly Foundation is committed to supporting education and teaching projects across Bedfordshire”, he said. “This new way of getting that final teaching qualification whilst being permanently in school and learning from highly qualified and experienced staff will result in high quality post graduates entering the profession.”

The foundation also funds annual apprenticeships, completing a level 2 course. This allows post-16 students to work on the Redborne farm as apprentices, gathering valuable skills ready to take them onto further education in a related field.

The Oxford Project: Raising the aspirations of disadvantaged students

We are delighted that the Connolly Foundation, working alongside Wadham College, University of Oxford wishes to support disadvantaged high achieving students from across Central Beds. This entails each of the Central Beds upper/secondary schools identifying 5 students who would benefit from the support and guidance that can be offered by Wadham College. A programme has been designed, involving expert support, visits and bespoke mentoring.

Teacher Training with RTSA

The Redborne Teaching School Alliance (RTSA) is the Lead School for our highly successful School Direct, Initial Teacher Training programme. Since 2012, we have trained over 75 teachers, the vast majority of whom are now working in schools across Bedfordshire and the East of England. We have trained teachers in both primary and secondary phases, including all core and most of the foundation subjects. We work very closely with our partner, the University of Bedfordshire, who themselves have over a hundred years of experience in teacher training. All of our successful trainees gain a Master's level PGCE, alongside QTS status.

Applications for September 2020 will be opening in October, if you are interested gaining more information on how to apply, visit our website, or follow the link below.

<https://www.redbornecommunitycollege.com/page/?title=Initial+Teacher+Training&pid=148>

A number of trainees, following a range of different routes passed successfully through RTSA's doors this year. Kelly Lara, one of our now qualified English trainees, told us more about her experience training with us:

"Redborne is home to some of the most amazing students; there have been many moments of laughter and some moments of happy tears through a genuine sense of pride and appreciation. The students have taught me just as much socially as I have taught them academically and I feel truly honoured to have had the opportunity to work alongside such brilliant and blossoming young minds. As a trainee teacher, Redborne has everything you need and more. Not only have they provided me with a fantastic and understanding personal mentor but the whole department have been so helpful, friendly and supportive - I have certainly felt like they want me to succeed. I would recommend teacher training at Redborne to anyone. Thank you." **Kelly Lara, English Trainee: July 2019**

NQTs

Congratulations to our five Newly Qualified Teachers who have all successfully completed induction - Rebecca Palmer (science), Bradley Tillet (technology), Rachael Tattersall (English), Catherine Hunt (English), Rebecca Budd (art and technology). Rachael, Catherine and Rebecca Budd all completed their ITT School Direct training at Redborne whilst Bradley and Rebecca Palmer trained with BEST SCITT.



It is worth pointing out that many of our ex-trainee teachers now work with us in senior positions: heads of department, Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs) and even on the leadership team. A successful programme indeed!

NQTs (continued)

Next year Stratton Upper School and Redborne Upper School will be taking part in the Early Career Framework (ECF) pilot commissioned by the Education Endowment Foundation and Ambition Institute. Induction leads and SLEs Claire Crowther and Jane Luck will be coordinating this pilot in their respective schools.



Induction tutors and mentors have been trained in the ECF curriculum and Instructional Coaching and we are very excited about this evidence-based method of mentoring new entrants to the profession.

RTSA will continue to work closely with the CBTSP NQT group co-ordinated by Kate Charlton (Central Beds NQT lead). Our SLEs will be contributing to both the NQT conference in November and also the new end of year celebration and enrichment event which will be held at Redborne in July.

Professional Study Groups

We run a variety of professional study groups, (PSGs), in order to support the professional development of colleagues across the county. The groups cover all key stages and are led by professionals who are experts in their field. We work very closely with Central Beds county council to offer professional development opportunities for school staff, in line with local need.

Our PSGs can be found and booked via [cpdonline](#) and are advertised and updated regularly on our website and Twitter.

Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE)

At RTSA, we have a team of 33 SLEs and this continues to grow. The team comprises an impressive array of expertise and backgrounds. Our website contains full details of the team and their specialist areas.

If you wish to commission the work of one of our SLEs, please contact Vicki Walsh, stvwalsh@redborne.com at RTSA in the first instance.

Government backed STEM Intern programme held at Redborne Upper School, Summer 2019

This summer term, Redborne welcomed 9 penultimate year university students as salaried interns from 17th June to 12th July to experience life as a teacher of maths or science.

The programme was developed to offer the interns a realistic teaching experience both in and out of Redborne. The aim is to introduce our STEM graduates to the possibility of teaching as a career, either now or sometime in their future working lives.



Emilia Corvesor, one of our interns summarised her experience:

“Our time at Redborne began with the observation of lessons (predominantly maths and science), shadowing teachers, giving starters/plenaries in lessons and participating in extra-curricular activities. We were all curious to see if teaching was suited to us as a future career choice; this was the best way to gain first-hand experience and a glimpse of what teaching entails.

The internship appealed to us for a variety of reasons, namely:

- *The ability to gain hands on experience in a classroom.*
- *The chance to understand different dynamics within schools, which you do not see as a student.*
- *Developing transferable skills.*
- *Opening potential career paths.*

We were assigned classes with which to work alongside the teacher in post. We were given training on many aspects of teaching: from classroom management; questioning; preparing and delivering effective starters and plenaries. We supported at our local feeder schools with their sports and transition events; we planned and delivered a maths puzzle day to 400 students and a science activity afternoon for middle school students. The weeks simply flew by and it was an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable experience. I would have liked to have stayed for longer! The staff at Redborne were welcoming and inspiring. Thank you for the opportunity to experience teaching. It is now certainly a career I would consider in the future.” Emilia Corvesor

Addressing Teacher Workload

RTSA is delighted to have been invited to be involved in a working party looking at teacher workload. This project is co-ordinated by Alban Teaching School Alliance and Claire Crowther (SLE) will be representing RTSA. In the autumn term Redborne will be using the DfE workload toolkit to review our existing policies and procedures with regards to marking, data management, teacher planning and resources.



Redborne participated in the DfE workload survey conducted by NFER in the spring term and we look forward to receiving the findings of this research both nationally and for our own school early next term.

Promoting Emotional Health, Wellbeing and Resilience

RTSA, BEST and Central Beds (School Improvement and Public Health) have been working collaboratively on a number of CPD initiatives this year based around mental health.

The 'Leading a Mentally Healthy School' course has been delivered twice and a further two cohorts are planned for 2019/20.



A very successful PSG on staff wellbeing will be repeated in the autumn term along with a PSG focusing on identifying needs and monitoring impact, working with parents and carers and the new RSE curriculum. Flora Burt (BEST) and Claire Crowther (RTSA) will be working with CAMH, CHUMS and the Anna Freud Institute to develop further school based training for lower and primary schools.

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