

ECTP Bulletin

Issue 3 - January 2026



Welcome to the third Early Career Framework (ECTP) Bulletin of the academic year 2025/2026 from Vantage Teaching School Hub. The purpose of this Bulletin is to share relevant information regarding the Early Career Training Programme with Induction Tutors, Mentors and Early Career Teachers (ECTs). We will circulate these Bulletins at the start of each new module in the Full Induction Programme Calendar.



Happy New Year to all of our programme members and colleagues in schools. We are looking forward to the new year ahead after the Christmas break.

The ECTP Bulletins will begin with an introduction that is relevant to all cohorts and programme members. You will then be signposted to links that will take you to the sections of the Bulletin that are specific to the cohort to which you are a member of.



Thank you to our January 25 Mentors and ECTs who attended our Induction into Year 2 of the ECF programme on 10th December 2025. These programme members are now joining the September 2024 cohort for the remainder of this academic year.

e: teachingschoolhub@smchull.org

They will access the Year 2 programme in a slightly different order but will receive all the training and support that they are entitled to. We look forward to welcoming ECTs into the Year 2 seminar groups and mentors into our existing Year 2 mentor groups.

In this Bulletin:-

- Recruitment of new ECTs and Mentors from January 2026
- Inductions for new Y1 ECTs and Mentors in January 2026
- Replacement Mentor expectations
- Spring Term Induction Tutor webinar
- Brightspace reminders
- Link to the Y1 September 2025 cohort Bulletin
- Link to the Y2 cohort Bulletin
- Link to the Y1 January 2026 cohort Bulletin

Important - are you anticipating recruiting any new Year 1 ECTs from January 2026?

We would be grateful if you could let us know if you will be recruiting any new Year 1 ECTs from January 2026 by completing the form attached: [click on here](#)

The form will also be available on our website: www.vantagetsh.org.

ECT and Mentor Inductions for new January cohort Year 1 2026

The Inductions for all new January 2026 cohort members starting in Year 1 of the ECTP will take place in January 2026 in order to ensure that both ECTs and mentors are fully prepared to start the first year of the programme.

ECTs and new mentors will now be invited to attend a joint Welcome Conference for all new January 2026 cohort members which will be a half day, face to face seminar:

- Y1 ECT and Mentor Induction for new ECTs and Mentors

Wednesday 14th January 2026

1pm to 4.00pm

Cottingham Parks, Woodhill Way, Cottingham. HU16 5SW

Delivered by Andrea Tonks (ECTP Lead) and Nicola Tennsion (AB Lead)

Joining instructions will be sent to all new ECTs and new Mentors who onboard with us into the January 2026 cohort. Please can you share this information with your Year 1 ECT(s) and any new mentor (s) as they will be invited to this event and it is mandatory that they attend. If your mentor has already undertaken their Year 1 induction previously, they do not need to repeat this.

Replacement Mentors

On our ECF programme we have a number of Mentors who have taken over the mentoring of an ECT part-way through their ECT's statutory induction, as previously explained in our ECF Bulletins:

Important - Replacement Mentors current arrangements

We ask that where possible, schools retain the same mentor for the ECT throughout the two years (or equivalent of statutory induction). We know that a strong supportive relationship with an engaged mentor help ECTs to develop. However, we recognise that mentors may need to change, e.g., for unforeseen circumstances, or it is in the best interest for the ECT. If a school withdraws a mentor, the school must ensure that alternate ECF mentors are found if the ECTs are not leaving the school.

Further to this we are aware that we have a number of ECTs who have moved to a new school for the second year of their induction and therefore need a new mentor.

When a mentor is changed by a school, they will firstly need to update this information on the DfE service: <https://manage-training-for-early-career-teachers.education.gov.uk/schools>. Schools will also need to let Vantage TSH know via email at: teachingschoolhub@smchull.org

From September 2025, any NEW mentor that joins the programme, irrespective of the stage of the ECT they are supporting, will start from the beginning of the mentor programme which is now a one-year programme.

All new and replacement mentors therefore will be invited to attend our Year 1 Mentor induction regardless of whether they are mentoring a Year 1 or a Year 2 ECT.

If the replacement mentor is mentoring a Year 2 ECT they will be given the information and programme guide to support their Y2 ECT.

The replacement mentor, once they have attended the Y1 induction will be invited to attend the Y1 mentor seminars and continue through the programme for training year – regardless of when their original ECT completes statutory induction. This is to ensure that the mentor has received all of the training and their school receives all of the available funding. Please note that this is only relevant to replacement mentors who are new to our programme and who have not previously completed all of our ECF programme.

The mentor seminars are relevant to developing effective mentoring skills and are not directly linked to the seminars that the ECTs attend.

All mentors will receive the relevant programme guides/ handbook linked to stage of the ECT they are supporting.

In the specific cohort sections of this Bulletin we have detailed the expectations for ECTs and Mentors on Brightspace. This is slightly different however for replacement Mentors.

If a replacement Mentor has taken over the mentoring of an ECT that is in Y1, below are the expectations for this replacement Mentor:

- The Mentor will need to attend one of our live Y1 Induction events or a catch up event (depending when they join our programme).
- The Mentor will receive a training calendar and be expected to attend all of the seminars advertised.
- The Mentor will receive the Y1 Programme Guide & Handbook which they will use to support them in their role.
- From September 2025, if a Mentor is supporting a Y1 ECT, they will need to complete a diagnostic activity about their ECT at the start of each Module (every half term) - this activity is mandatory.

- Mentors are expected to log onto Brightspace every week if they are mentoring a Year 1 ECT to view the weekly videos. This is their self-study. A Mentor's engagement with this is tracked by Teach First and they will receive a reminder email if they have not regularly engaged with these.
- Mentors are encouraged to track the progress of their ECT on Brightspace so that they can discuss this with them and escalate any issues to the Induction Tutor.

Here is the pathway that a Mentor can follow to check the progress of their Year 1 ECT:

Login to My TeachFirst > Click on ECF2025 (Year 1 ECTs) > Click on the chosen Module for ECTs (Do not click on the Module for Mentors) > Click on Audit Users > Select the ECT

You will then be able to see an overview of their engagement in the content of the Module.

Here is the pathway that a Mentor can follow to view the notes that an ECT has made: Brightspace > Module * for ECTs > Course Tools (near the top) > Notes > Shared Items

If a replacement Mentor has taken over the mentoring of an ECT that is in Y2, below are the expectations for this replacement Mentor:

- The Mentor will need to attend one of our live Y1 Induction events or a catch up event (depending when they join our programme). This is to enable them to understand the ECF programme & how instructional coaching works.
- They will also be offered the option to attend and/or the catch up resources for the Y2 induction so that they understand the programme that their current ECT is engaged in.
- The Mentor will receive a training calendar and be expected to attend all of the seminars advertised. These will be Y1 (new Mentor seminars – these seminars are based on Mentor development).

- Y1 Mentors are expected to watch the weekly videos to support their ECTs but if a Mentor has replaced a Y2 Mentor, then they will NOT be expected to do this.
- The Mentor will receive the Y2 Programme Guide which they will use to support them in their role.
- Replacement Y2 Mentors will be set up on Brightspace so that they can see all of the Y2 Development Cycles.
- A key responsibility of a mentor on the ECF and ECTP is to help their ECT to contextualise their learning from the programme and apply it within their own school and classroom context.
- Understanding the curriculum your ECT has engaged with - alongside knowing the research and pedagogical strategies that underpin it - enables mentors to guide them effectively through their six Year 2 ECF Development Cycles. This knowledge also supports the tailoring of goals with the cycle to meet the ECTs specific developmental needs.
- New/Replacement mentors who are mentoring a Y2 ECT will be sent a table which highlights key ECTP weekly mentor overview videos - accessed via Brightspace - designed to help them understand the curriculum and strategies underpinning each ECF Year 2 Development Cycle, We recommend prioritising watching these videos to strengthen their mentoring knowledge and practice for each cycle. Mentors can access these videos through the 'Early Career Training Programme for Mentors' or 'Early Career Training Programme for Trained Mentors' self-directed training on Brightspace.
- Mentors are expected to log onto Brightspace every half-term if they are mentoring a Year 2 ECT to check they have completed the retrieval quizzes so that they can discuss this with them and escalate any issues to the Induction Tutor - reminders about how to do this are below:

Here is the pathway that a Mentor can follow to check the progress of their Year 2 ECT:

Login to My TeachFirst > Click on ECF2024 (Year 2 ECTs) > Click on the chosen Development Cycle for ECTs (Do not click on the Module for Mentors) > Click on Audit Users > Select the ECT

You will then be able to see an overview of their engagement in the content of the Development Cycle.

Induction Tutor Webinars

Nicola Tennison (Appropriate Body Lead) and I will continue to offer termly webinars for Induction Tutors. These are an opportunity for Induction Tutors to ask questions and give feedback; Also for us to share any new national or regional information with school leaders. We see this as a really crucial part of our approach to Quality Assurance and training for Induction Tutors to enable them to fulfill their roles effectively.

The next webinar will take place on Thursday 12th March 2026 at 4pm via zoom. The link to attend this session will be sent to all Induction Tutors a week before the meeting date.

The Summer Term webinar will take place on Thursday 18th June 2026 at 4pm, via Zoom.

My Teach First and Brightspace

My Teach First is the home page that you log on to access the ECF or ECTP Programme. The platform Brightspace is where all the curriculum materials are housed and this is accessed once you log onto My Teach First.

We appreciate that there are a small number of programme members who have experienced issues in obtaining their log on details for My Teach First. Many of these issues have been caused by the incorrect inputting or transference of information from the DFE portal.

If you are experiencing any issues, then our advice is for Induction Tutors to check that all the information is correct on the DFE portal in the first instance. If any mistakes are found, once they have been rectified, this takes 10-14 days to feed through to Teach First. Please do let us know via email: teachingschoolhub@smchull.org if any issues persist beyond 14 days and we can support with escalating the query.

New programme members are encouraged to watch the short You Tube videos which support in navigating Brightspace correctly. These links have also been put into the Y1 September cohort section of the Bulletin.

- [An overview of Brightspace as an ECT](#)
- [Brightspace tips and tricks](#)
- [How to complete your diagnostic activity as an ECT](#)

- [An overview of Brightspace as a Mentor](#)
- [Brightspace tips and tricks](#)
- [How to complete your diagnostic activity as a Mentor](#)

Brightspace Reminders

- Like any new web-based platform, developing familiarity with the functions and layout will enable ECTs and Mentors to get the best use out of it and reduce workload. This will require participants to log in weekly, little and often.
- Brightspace tracks content covered, clicks, time spent engaged with self-directed study which form the basis of the engagement reports to the DfE per participant.

From time to time we know that participants sometimes encounter problems. When this occurs, please use the [this link](#).

Year 1 ECTs/ Mentors and Induction Tutors 2025

(Including those who started their induction in April 2025).

Please follow the link here to open the section of the Bulletin that is specific to your cohort: ([click here](#))

Year 2 ECTs/ Mentors and Induction Tutors (including January 2025 Cohort).

Please follow the link here to open the section of the Bulletin that is specific to your cohort ([click here](#)).

Year 1 ECTs/Mentors and Induction Tutors January 2026 Cohort

Please follow the link here to open the section of the Bulletin that is specific to your cohort: ([click here](#)).

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Best Wishes

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