

ECTP Bulletin

Issue 4 - February 2026


**VANTAGE
TEACHING
SCHOOL HUB**
NORTH HUMBER



Welcome to the fourth Early Career Training Programme (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.



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.



We hope that everyone has had a restful half term break and is ready for the second half of the Spring Term?

Thank you to our January 25 Mentors and ECTs who have attended their first seminars with us after joining Year 2 of the ECF programme alongside the September 2024 cohort. They will access the Year 2 programme in a slightly different order but will receive all of the training and support that they are entitled to.

e: teachingschoolhub@smchull.org

In this Bulletin:-

- End of Term assessment - Induction Tutors
- Spring Term Induction Tutor webinar
- Engagement Policy Update
- Brightspace reminders
- Link to the Y1 September 2025 cohort Bulletin
- Link to the Y2 cohort Bulletin
- Link to the Y1 January 2026 cohort Bulletin

End of term assessment/Progress Reviews

Your Appropriate Body will be requesting that Induction Tutors complete a Progress Review of ECTs by the end of this term.

Induction Tutors will need to: have observed ECTs teach, speak to them about their practice and speak to Mentors about their progress in order to complete the Progress Review.

Your Appropriate Body will require you to complete the review on their preferred platform/paperwork. The majority of our ECTs are registered with Vantage AB Services and Induction Tutors will be required to complete the reviews via ECT Manager.

Examples of reviews can be found under: 'Resources' on the ECT Manager platform to support Induction Tutors in understanding the expectations of these reviews.

ECTs are advised to take an active role in the termly review process by discussing with their Induction Tutor all of the progress & activities they have achieved and completed over the course of the term.

Once the PR is completed, ECT Manager will send an email with a link for the ECT to write their comment regarding the review.

We advised ECTs and Mentors at the Welcome Conferences to keep brief notes relating to the precise actions that have been set whilst working through the Modules on Brightspace. These can then be shared with the Induction Tutor.

There is an appendix at the back of the ECT's programme guide to keep notes on precise actions and also within the Mentor's handbook.

ECTs are also advised to keep brief notes about their achievements/ activities over the course of the term that they can share with the Induction Tutor.

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.

Engagement Policy Update

Attendance at the Early Career training seminars that we run for the different cohorts of the Full Induction Programme, is usually very good and we thank all programme members who regularly attend the sessions as indicated on their training calendars. We would also like to thank ECTs and Mentors for completing the feedback forms at the end of each seminar as this really supports our continued development of the programme.

All seminars compliment the self-study that an ECT or Mentor is engaged in and also provides them with the opportunity to network.

When a school joins our Full Induction Programme and signs the partnership agreement, they are agreeing to our engagement policy as this forms part of the statutory entitlement for ECTs during their induction period. This includes our data sharing agreement with Appropriate Bodies. There may be times when we need to share information with an Appropriate Body regarding the engagement/ attendance of an ECT or mentor on our programme to enable the AB to carry out their Quality Assurance and support of schools effectively.

I have provided an update and reminders below regarding our engagement policy which ultimately supports an ECT in completing their statutory induction period and protects a school's enrolment on the programme.

- The Early Career Training Programme is a mandatory programme of development for all Early Career Teachers.
- Engagement with the programme is measured through interaction with the self-directed content and attendance at seminars.
- It is the responsibility of the ECF Lead (Induction Tutor) in school to monitor engagement and support their teacher to utilise the support provided in the best way possible.
- Schools can decide to withdraw from the programme, or to withdraw an individual ECT or Mentor from the programme.

It is a requirement of our contract with our lead provider, Teach First and the DfE that we collect registers for each seminar event that we run and report on attendance and engagement.

1. ECTs and Mentors are placed in a specific group when they are on boarded, to attend their training seminars.
2. If an ECT or Mentor informs Vantage TSH that they cannot attend a seminar due to another meeting or a reasonable circumstance, then they will be offered one of the other seminars running in that training week as an alternative. During a training week, sessions usually run on a: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday for ECTs. (Unfortunately we can't offer this for the Year 2 ECT sessions.)
3. If an ECT or Mentor is unable to attend, one of the alternative sessions in a training week then a recording of the session may be offered after the event. Please note that recordings are only offered as a last resort for a seminar and will only be given once unless there are exceptional circumstances (see below). If a recording is offered, then the ECT or Mentor will be asked to confirm that they have completed the 'catch up' within 10 days of receipt. Attendance returned to the DfE will show as having attended 'via catch up'.
4. In exceptional circumstances or if an ECT or Mentor has a reasonable adjustment to the programme, they will be offered a recording of the seminar after the event & asked to inform Teach First when they have completed the catch up within 10 days of receipt. Attendance returned to the DfE will show as having attended 'via catch up'.
5. If another recording is requested from an ECT or Mentor who does not have an exceptional circumstance or a reasonable adjustment to the programme; they may be sent the recording at the discretion of Vantage TSH, but they will not be recorded as having attended.
6. If an ECT or Mentor has not engaged in the self-directed study within a Module over the course of a term and/or has not attended a 'live' seminar, then we will inform the Induction Tutor at their school via email, to safeguard the school's enrolment on the programme.

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: [\(click here\)](#).

Email: teachingschoolhub@smchull.org

Tel: 01482 851136

Best Wishes

Andrea Tonks

ECTP Lead

