

ECF Bulletin

Issue 1: November 2021

**VANTAGE
TEACHING
SCHOOL HUB**
NORTH HUMBER



Welcome to the first Early Careers Framework (ECF) Bulletin from Vantage Teaching School Hub. The purpose of this Bulletin is to share relevant information regarding the Early Careers Framework Full Induction 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.



Thank you to all Induction Tutors, Mentors and ECTs who attended our Induction Sessions in September. We appreciate that the new framework is a huge set of reforms for the sector and we know that schools have worked really hard to set up the roles and practices needed in your settings to ensure that ECTs get the support to which they are entitled.



The first half term of the academic year has seen ECTs and Mentors work through Module 1 of the Full Induction Programme. Due to the timings of the induction and also challenges with logging into the My Teach First platforms, we know that navigating this first module has not been as straightforward as we had hoped.

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Moving into Module 2

This week heralds the start of Module 2 in the Full Induction Programme Calendar. In this Module ECTs will focus on 'How do pupils learn?'

ECTs have their weekly self-directed study to focus on which takes between 30 – 60 minutes per week.

The weekly interactions with their Mentors are clearly set out in the Mentor's Programme Guide. Every week there is a recommended stimulus of either a 10 minute drop-in observation or a discussion.

We advise Mentors to use their Programme Guides when leading the weekly interactions and to make brief notes in these pages.

We hope that Mentors and ECTs are developing their confidence with Instructional Coaching and deliberate practice.

The ECT Seminars for Module 2 will take place during these weeks:

ECT Module 2 – Seminar 3 w/c 15 November 2021 (face to face)

ECT Module 2 – Seminar 4 w/c 6 December 2021 (online via Zoom)

Invites to these events will be sent out in due course. Attendance at these seminars is very important so please do let us know if there are any issues.

The Mentor Seminar for Module 2 will take place as follows:

Mentor Module 2 – Webinar 2 w/c 29 November 2021 (online via Zoom)

Reminders for Mentors

Prior to attending their Module 2 Webinar on w/c 29 November 2021, all Mentors will need to have completed their self-directed study task for this module.

Unit 1: Precise Actions

Mentors are asked to reflect on a recent interaction they have had with their ECT and consider the effectiveness of the precise actions they have set. The self-directed study task should take approximately 30 minutes to complete and requires Mentors to record a recent interaction with their ECT and then to reflect upon it. There are examples of reflections on Brightspace to support the completion of the task.

We have organised the timing of the Mentor seminars to include 15 minutes at the start of the session where Mentors can log on to discuss the self-directed study task and talk through it with colleagues in their group (3.45pm - 4pm). The webinar training will then begin at 4pm until 5pm.

Updates on 'MyTeachFirst' and 'Brightspace'

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

We have had several queries regarding the marking of 'assignments' and after speaking to Teach First we can now give you clarity regarding this. The term assignment is in the loosest term; these are notes that an ECT makes in response to an activity on Brightspace, to be discussed with the Mentor during the weekly interactions. When an ECT or Mentor navigates to the 'Class Progress' tab in Brightspace and scrolls to the 'Assignments' section they will see completed assignments shown as 'Awaiting Grade.' We acknowledge that this is confusing as there is no expectation within ECF for a Mentor to grade any ECT assignment.

Unfortunately, this functionality is standard within the Brightspace tool as it is designed for programmes where assignments are expected to be graded and Teach First are unable to alter the wording or remove the function; Teach First are looking into the possibility of changing this aspect in the future.

The purpose of the Mentor Assessment is to support Mentors in understanding their strengths and weaknesses in learning science and the Early Career Framework. It is important to note this assessment is diagnostic, not evaluative; it is not a pass/fail assessment and therefore has no passing score to achieve. Teach First have updated the platform to remove any thresholds that may have given the impression they had 'failed' any section of the assessment.

Here is the pathway that a Mentor can follow to view the notes that an ECT has made:
Brightspace > Module 1 for ECTs > Course Tools (near the top) > Notes > Shared Items

Please do contact Laura Fillingham on lfillingham@smchull.org if you are still experiencing issues logging into My Teach First.

We have also asked Teach First to enable Induction Tutors to have the function whereby they can access an overview of the engagement of their ECTs on Brightspace. They have acknowledged this request and we will keep you updated.

End of term assessment

Your Appropriate Body will be requesting that you complete a Progress Review of your 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.

Any ECTs joining mid-year

We would be grateful if Induction Tutors could let us know if you are anticipating any new ECTs mid-way through the academic year so we can plan ahead accordingly.

QTS and Mentor eligibility

The DfE have recently notified us of a change of policy around eligibility for funding for Mentors on the ECF. Teachers without QTS or QLTS will now be eligible for funding as Mentors. Previously they could be a Mentor but were not eligible for funding.

We hope that Module 2 runs smoothly for you all – remember we are here to help should you need any support.

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Best Wishes

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