

Message from Professor Kate Ireland, Director of the Centre for Teacher Education

To all University of Warwick PGCE students and trainees (cc. partner schools for information)

- **Plans for communicating QTS recommendations to students**
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Friday 15 May 2020

Plans to communicate QTS recommendations:

Trainees will be issued a 'pen portrait' which includes summary data from your APs and a judgement regarding whether or not you are considered as 'on a trajectory to meet the Teachers' Standards' and therefore would be recommended for QTS by the end of your ITE programme. Details about this are summarised below. All judgements are subject to internal and external moderation and any recommendation for QTS is also dependent on continued engagement and completion of the PGCE programme.

When will I receive my pen portrait?

This will be released to you in Tabula; between 9:30 and 11:30am on Thursday 21 May 2020. You will receive an email notification from Tabula to let you know that you have a QTS Assessment recommendation for the assignment titled 'Practical Teaching - QTS Trajectory' for your Professional Practice Module.

What happens if I am not judged to be on a trajectory to meet the Teachers' Standards?

Any trainees who are not being recommended for QTS will be contacted directly by their Personal Tutors to discuss this before the pen-portraits are released on Thursday 21 May 2020.

Where this applies, the judgement is that you need further experience and/or opportunity in a school setting to demonstrate that you are capable of meeting the Teachers' Standards. Your Personal Tutor will discuss with you the process and timing for us finding a further school placement suitable to support your continued training.

If my pen-portrait says that I am being recommended for QTS, does this mean that I have passed my Professional Practice module?

No. To pass the Professional Practice module, you must also successfully complete your PDP (which will be assessed by your personal tutor) and submit a CEDP. Additionally, Secondary trainees must pass their Viva and, if relevant, their SKE course.

Why aren't any QTS recommendation judgements finalised now?

All trainees' recommendations are still subject to external moderation and will be formally made at your PGCE Examination Board (3rd July 2020 for Primary and 7th July 2020 for Secondary). Trainees should also bear in mind that they can only be recommended for the PGCE award (and QTS) if they have passed their postgraduate assignments. Where one or more resubmissions are required, recommendations for both the award of PGCE (and QTS) will be considered by Chair's action over the summer.

How have CTE arrived at judgements for trainees?

The CTE's methodology for making these judgements, as discussed with SSLCs, will be available to all trainees in Moodle on Thursday 21st May, via the Moodle News Forum, to coincide with the pen-portraits.

As we have said in previous weeks, we are reassured that the approach we have taken is robust and in agreement with others in sector. Our approach has been endorsed by our Partnership Steering Group, SSLCs, our external examiners and the University of Warwick Faculty Education Committee.

Plans for sharing School Direct student QTS recommendation with School Direct Partners:

School Direct lead schools will receive a summary of their School Direct students' information and outcomes at the end of the day on Tuesday 19th May 2020. We are asking partners to not discuss details with trainees until after all students receive their pen-portraits on the morning of Thursday 21st May.

Advice on the resumption of ITE placements in the context of Covid19

We are aware that some of you may be considering what is your best course of action in the event of some schools re-opening from June onwards.

As you are aware, we are awaiting guidance from the DfE on a number of areas which include how ITT providers respond to the possible re-opening of some schools. We are not in a position to provide a steer to you as we await DfE guidance, however, what is clear is that you have a commitment to complete your PGCE year and to fully engage with teaching or CPD sessions associated with this. I know CTE staff have prepared for sessions between now and the end of the academic year to support your transition to your NQT year.

Student References:

Our trainees have been very busy lately seeking employment (which is great news!) but this has resulted in a larger number of reference requests being received earlier than usual. The Student Experience team are working hard to ensure that we maintain our agreed turnaround times whilst also providing additional support to online teaching and other key administrative duties during the current situation. We kindly ask that you bear with us during this very busy period and avoid chasing up requests unless, in the unlikely scenario, the 10-day turnaround period has been surpassed. Many thanks in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Student Support:

If you are experiencing any issues or difficulties and feel that you would benefit from some support please do contact your personal tutor in the first instance, and thereafter the CTE Senior Tutor, Rachel Cooper (R.A.Cooper@warwick.ac.uk). Your personal tutor will maintain regular contact with you, please ensure that you respond to their emails so that we can be assured that you are safe and well. If you are ill at any time you need to complete the [absence reporting form](#) as normal.

Wellbeing Services are continuing to offer appointments which are either via video or telephone. This includes all of wellbeing; counselling and disability support services as well as support from mental health nurses. The wellbeing section of MyWarwick is being updated constantly, and has FAQs specifically for students around Coronavirus:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/coronavirus-update/>

Brief wellbeing consultations continue to run as usual Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm, they are just by phone now. You can enquire online via the wellbeing portal as you would usually do and one of the advisers will contact you by phone the same day where possible. You can still call us as usual if you are unsure or need to ask anything.

The masterclass which was previously running every Mon – Thurs at 4.30pm is now available online for you to go through in your own time accompanied by a voiceover to help explain it: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/students/masterclass>

Online Interview guidance for NQT Teaching positions:

Want to get some online video interview practice in before the real thing? Your link Careers Consultant Stephanie Redding has developed an [NQT Teaching Position video interview](#) for you to use to help you prepare for online teaching interviews. You can go through 14 typical questions asked at teaching interviews and record your answers and review them. You can even re-record until you are happy with your responses. At the end of the interview you will also get sent a report which gives you an idea about the pace of your speech and how many “filler” words you used.

Further signposting:

The Council for Subject Associations has launched an [online directory](#) of all the Subject Associations that support each subject taught in schools, plus listings of organisations that provide further support.

Have a good weekend.
Best wishes,
Kate



Professor Kate Ireland,
Director of CTE