

Liz – PGCE Science

Degree and classification: BSc (Hons) Biology

What experience of working with schools and or children did you have before embarking on the PGCE course?

I had an interest in teaching and working with young people for many years but to get an insight into teaching and the career. I completed the 'Students Associate Scheme' work experience programme prior to the PGCE, this involved three weeks work experience in a secondary school. In the school I worked individually with pupils, taught small parts of lessons and helped with extra curricular activities. At my interview for the PGCE it was recommended I complete a 'Chemistry for non-specialists' course, this was fantastic and was of huge benefit to my teaching as I have taught outside of my specialism during and since the PGCE.

How did the PGCE course prepare you for your NQT year?

The PGCE was fantastic, I had a huge range of great opportunities to develop and learnt a huge amount in a short time. I visited three schools, I took pupils on a school trip, I was involved with extra curricular activities and I worked with a huge range of staff and pupils. I also started my Masters in Education while studying for the PGCE, this I have continued and am currently researching for my dissertation, the final part of the Masters in Education.

What impact did the PGCE course have on your early career?

The PGCE provided fantastic foundations for my early career, during the NQT year I was given a place on an NQT leadership award which involved me visiting schools and academies nationally and researching an area within my teaching that interested me. I have had a successful start to my career. I am currently Head of House at the school I am now working, which was my second placement school on the PGCE. I started a year 7 Science club, I regularly run extra curricular revision sessions and have been involved with charity events at the school. I am thoroughly enjoying my career to date and look forward to progressing and developing as a teacher.