ECTP Bulletin

Issue 2 - November 2026

VANTAGE TEACHING SCHOOL HUB
NORTH HUMBER







Welcome to the second Early Career Training Programme (ECTP) Bulletin of the academic year 2026/2027 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.

We hope that all new Year 1 ECTs have had a successful half term and that everyone has had a well-deserved rest over the half term holiday.

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 all Induction Tutors, Mentors and ECTs who have attended our Welcome Conferences. We appreciate 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.

e: ecfadmin@smchull.org

In this Bulletin

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- Inductions for new Y1 ECTs and Mentors in January 2027
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- 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 2027?

We would be grateful if you could let us know if you will be recruiting any new Year 1 ECTs from January 2027 by emailing us at ecfadmin@smchull.org

ECT and Mentor Inductions for new January cohort Year 1 2027

The Inductions for all new January 2027 cohort members starting Year 1 of the ECTP will take place in January 2027 in order to ensure that both ECTs and new Mentors are fully prepared to start the first year of the programme.
ECTs and new Mentors will be booked onto the date below which will be a half day, face to face seminar.

- Y1 ECT & Mentor Induction for new Mentors

Wednesday 13th January 2027 from 1.00pm to 4.00pm
Hull KR, Sewell Group, Craven Park, Preston Road, HULL. HU9 5HE.
Delivered by Andrea Tonks, ECTP Strategic Lead

Joining instructions will be sent to all new ECTs and new Mentors who onboard with us into the January 2027 cohort.

Trained Mentors

We now have a number of completed or trained mentors who are supporting new ECTs who have joined our Early Career Training Programme or who are continuing to support Y2 ECTs on the ECTP.

These mentors will not be invited to any further training with us but we will continue to support them by providing them with the programme guides and information that they need to support either a Y1 or a Y2 ECT.

We have recently sent out all of the relevant information and programme guides to our completed mentors. However if there are any of these mentors who do not have the correct guides then contact us straight away so that we can rectify this.

End of term assessments and Progress Reviews for the Appropriate Body

Your Appropriate Body will be requesting that you complete a Progress Review or in some cases, a formal assessment of your ECT 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 the classroom and with the Early Career Training Programme, in order to complete the Progress Review or formal assessment.

Your Appropriate Body will require you to complete the review on their preferred platform/paperwork. If you are registered with Vantage AB services then all assessments are completed on ECT Manager. You will receive an email with a reminder to complete the progress review as the Induction Tutor.

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.

As explained at the Welcome Conferences and the Induction Tutor webinar, the DfE have increased their expectations for an ECT and mentor to be classed as engaged on the programme with us. Mandatory expectations are shown below and are further explained in the cohort specific sections of this Bulletin.

Mandatory expectations for ECTs

Year 1 ECTs:

- Complete the diagnostic quiz for each of the 6 Modules
- Complete the 5 units of self-study (either core or summary & stretch) for each of the 6 Modules
- Complete the knowledge check for each of the 5 units of self-study within a module
- Complete the post-module quiz for each of the 6 Modules
- Attend all the seminars delivered by Vantage TSH as shown on the training calendar
- Complete weekly interactions with assigned mentor based on instructional coaching

Year 2 ECTs:

- Complete the diagnostic quiz for each of the 3 Development Cycles
- Complete the 2 units of self-study for each Development Cycle
- Complete the knowledge check for each unit of self-study on Brightspace
- Attend all the termly seminars delivered by Vantage TSH as shown on the training calendar
- Complete the fortnightly interactions with assigned mentor based on the Development Cycle agreed focus (use your DC planner to document all steps in the cycle across a term)
- Complete an observation/discussion with an expert colleague every half term based on the Development Cycle agreed focus
- Upload a discussion proforma for your 'Engage with an expert' observation/discussion on Brightspace each half term.

Mandatory expectations for Mentors

Year 1 Mentors on our mentor training programme who are mentoring a Y1 ECT

- Complete the mentor version of the diagnostic quiz for each of the 6 modules
- Complete the 'Supporting a Y1 ECT' self study unit on Brightspace
- Complete 5 sections from the 'Putting research into practice' unit of mentor self-study on Brightspace
- Attend all the seminars delivered by Vantage TSH as shown on the training calendar
- Complete weekly interactions with assigned Y1 ECT based on instructional coaching

Year 1 Mentors on our training programme who are mentoring a current Y2 ECT

- Complete mentor version of the diagnostic quiz for each of the 3 Development Cycles
- Complete the 'Supporting a Y2 ECT' self-study unit on Brightspace

- Complete 5 sections from the 'Putting research into practice' unit of mentor self-study on Brightspace
- Attend all the seminars delivered by Vantage TSH as shown on the training calendar
- Complete fortnightly interactions with assigned Y2 ECT based on the Development Cycle agreed focus
- Support the ECT to complete an observation/discussion with an expert colleague every half term based on the Development Cycle agreed focus.

Induction Tutor webinar

Nicola Tennison (AB 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, hearing the detail of how the programme is impacting in schools and what further steps we can all take to provide the highest quality support for ECTs and their Mentors.

The Autumn Term webinar took place on: Thursday 8th October at 4pm, via Zoom. A recording has been circulated for all Induction Tutors who could not attend. If any Induction Tutor has not received this and or has not received an invite to the webinars, then please let us know.
During the meeting I shared the planned webinars for the academic year 2026/2027 designed to support Induction Tutors in their roles. These are detailed below:

The Spring Term webinar will take place on Thursday 4th March 2027 at 4pm, via Zoom
The Summer Term webinar will take place on Thursday 17th June 2027 at 4pm, via Zoom

My Teach First and Brightspace

My Teach First is the home page that you log on to access the ECTP 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 appreciate that sometimes programme members may experience 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 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 working days to feed through to Teach First. Please do let us know via email: ecfadmin@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 YouTube videos which support in navigating Brightspace correctly, These links have also been put in 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 Mentor.
- Brightspace tips and tricks.
- How to complete your diagnostic activity as Mentor.

How Mentors can check on the progress of their ECTs:

A reminder to Mentors about how to check on the progress of your ECT within a Module on Brightspace. The pathway to do so is as follows:

Login to My TeachFirst > Click on ECF2025 (Year 2 ECTs) Click on ECTP2026 (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.

Brightspace

- 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.

If there are any specific issues with the functionality of Brightspace, then please use the 'Contact Us' button on My Teach First or Brightspace. Always take a screenshot of the problem and send with an overview as this will help to diagnose and resolve the problem more quickly.

Need to know

The following advice is put together using our discussions with Teach First, the Teaching Hub Council, other TSHs and ECTs/Mentors from within our region who are continuing to report the positive impact that the ECF is having on their workload through more efficient and effective teacher development. This is reflected in the increased retention rates we are seeking across the region.

Workload Reduction:

- Mentors and ECTs should only make very short and concise written notes in the programme guide during meetings and on Brightspace during short self-directed study tasks.
- Use the DfE funded ECTP allocated curriculum time each week to focus explicitly on teacher development using instructional coaching. Credible evidence demonstrates that this is the most effective way to reduce workload through efficient and effective quality first teaching.
- ECTs/Mentors are telling us that they are increasingly aware of how they use their time and are abandoning activities that increase workload and take their attention away from improving their practice. A good example from one mentor involved spending 30 mins per week focussing on the ECF rather than replying to emails.
- Induction Tutors can help with workload reduction by reducing the amount of 'other CPD' that ECTs are expected to engage in, over and above the ECF. The ECF is underpinned by evidence on practice that should underpin career long professional development. The national ECF evaluation found that on average, ECTs engaged in an additional 29 hours of 'other CPD' during the last year, adding to their workload. Schools should prioritise the ECF in addition to supporting ECTs to understand school specific policies and practice so that they have clarity on school specific expectations but remain focused and engaged with the ECTP programme which underpins statutory induction.

Time commitments

- ECTs and mentors should engage with ECF/ECTP study within DfE funded allocated curriculum time.
- ECTs and mentors should apply a 'little and often' approach self-directed study and resist the temptation to focus activities that do not support teacher development.

ECF Flexibility

- Induction Tutors need to be certain that mentors and ECTs are covering ECF/ITT content for which they are funded. However, during the weeks of face to face training that involves travelling they may permit the ECT to use some of their allocated time to catch up on planning, preparation and assessment activities.

- ECTs and mentors must ensure that they cover a minimum of 80% engagement in the self-directed study. Therefore, 20% of the time can be used to address the immediate priorities of an ECT and support their well-being. An example of this might involve a mentor using their mentoring session from time to time to provide support for a matter that is causing the ECT some worry.

- SEND focus – there is now specific guidance on Brightspace for ECTs and Mentors to access. Facilitators will also give advice and reminders regarding SEND good practice at the seminars ECTs attend.

Year 1 ECTs/ Mentors and Induction Tutors 2026/2027

(Including those who started their induction in April 2026).

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

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: ecfadmin@smchull.org

Tel: 01482 851136

Best wishes

Andrea Tonks

ECTP Lead



