

SPOTLIGHT ON: Early Career Teachers



In Spotlight On, we catch up with our Early Career Teachers (ECTs) as they progress through the early stages of their career with us!

This time, we catch up with Megan Lee, Teacher of Science at Outwood Academy Freeston!

What first made you want to become a teacher?

Teaching has always been in the forefront of my mind as a career where you make a visible difference to a young person's confidence and understanding. During my undergraduate degree, none of the prospective jobs excited me like teaching did. I kept thinking about how a career in teaching gives you the opportunity to support and encourage a child, so they are enthusiastic when learning new things whilst also achieving their full potential.

"It's so rewarding to see students being inquisitive and really interested in your subject."

How are you finding teaching so far?

Teaching, like everyone says, is a rollercoaster but I love it! Some days are tougher than others, but I wouldn't change any of my experiences. As a science teacher I get to break down stigmas, share my passion for science and encourage curiosity with young people. It's so rewarding to see students being inquisitive and really interested in your subject.

"Training with Teach Outwood was such a hands-on experience"

How has your teacher training set you up for your first year as a teacher?

I was fortunate enough to have two amazing placements with two very supportive departments. From day one I felt part of the team - this allowed me to grow as a teacher and feel confident in the classroom. Training with Teach Outwood was such a hands-on experience and allowed me to dive straight in preparing me in every way for the first day you are officially on your own.

What are your learnings so far?

I have learnt so much during my first term as an ECT, but the main thing is to not be too hard on myself. You will always feel like you can or should have done something better but it's part of the process. No one expects you to know everything so there is nothing wrong with asking for help.

Could you share any tips/advice for other ECTs or trainee teachers?

Never struggle on your own or let things get on top of you. There is always someone who has felt like you have and can offer great support and advice. Say yes to every opportunity you can, whether that be going on a learning walk to explore new ideas in different departments or signing up to extra CPD. I particularly enjoy the subject director led sessions where the directors share their expertise and offer fantastic resources, models, and examples for you to use in the classroom.

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How have you felt supported so far by the Outwood Family?

Starting my career in a Trust like Outwood has given me a multitude of connections and allowed me to feel supported by a range of different people. Whether it be within your department, school wide or your subject director team, there is always someone around to offer support and answer any questions. Everyone I have come across is very approachable and wants the best for you.