

Case Study

Are you thinking of becoming a mentor?

Read Chloe's story...

Undergraduate degree: Theatre and Performance, University of Leeds

Postgraduate degree: PGCE Secondary Education, Drama, York St John

Teaching subject: Drama

Why did you decide to become a mentor?

When I first did my teacher training, I had a fantastic mentor who supported me throughout my training year. Without this coaching and positive influence, I wouldn't have progressed the way I did. When I was given the opportunity to be a mentor myself, I was unsure at first due to work/life balance, knowing how much my mentor had invested in me. I had just become associate lead of the faculty, but I knew I wanted a challenge and to inspire others like my mentor inspired me. With that said, I accepted the opportunity and I believe I made the right decision.



What is the value of being a mentor when working with training teachers?

Over the past few years, I have found that I have learnt a lot about my own practice and reflected on this within my own time. Being a mentor allows you to observe progress within the classroom in a different way, in terms of both your own teaching practice and how pupils learn most effectively. During mentor meetings it is great to give feedback and advice to student teachers but also engage with the fresh ideas that they bring into our school. It is a very rewarding task to mentor a student teacher and I feel that I have become a better teacher through this process.

What has your experience been like working with Hope Sentamu Learning Trust and York St John University when mentoring training teachers?

I have found it to be a positive experience working with Hope Sentamu and York St John. Due to the fact that I trained as a teacher through Hope Sentamu, it has been great for me to now see the School Direct PGCE course from a different perspective. Knowing the course and structure that the students are following allows me to plan and set achievable goals for the student teacher. Whenever I have had a question or query about what I should be doing, I have also felt supported by the staff at Hope Sentamu and York St John who are keen to advise how to respond to certain situations. Overall, it is a fantastic personal and professional development programme which allows you to instil the love of teaching to others through your own moral compass and dedication.

Great teaching changes lives.