

## **NORTH EAST TEACHER TRAINING PROVIDER SCOOPS FOURTH CONSECUTIVE 'OUTSTANDING' JUDGEMENT**

### **Ofsted: 'Leaders have a relentless drive for improvement'**

The North East Partnership SCITT (NEPSCITT) - which provides 'school-centred initial teacher training' for PE teachers and is based at John Spence Community High School in North Shields, has been awarded its fourth consecutive Outstanding judgement by Ofsted inspectors.

With a reputation for training some of the best teachers in the North of England, post-graduate trainees can opt to teach secondary PE or teach in the primary phase with the addition of a PE specialism and receive a 'unique and transformational experience,' according to Ofsted.

Its exceptional post-qualification employment rates, which stand between 96% and 100%, together with the course's ambitious, highly developed and high-quality curriculum, led to trainees noting the 'incredible' and 'impeccable' support of leaders and school-based mentors in the report.

Those who complete the course gain Qualified Teacher Status, a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) with the University of Northumbria and a broad range of additional qualifications including first aid, mental health first aid and a range of sporting national governing body awards. Secondary trainees also learn to teach a second subject while primary trainees master all subjects in the primary curriculum and specialise in PE. Through its long-standing partnership with a range of schools across the North East, placements for trainees are sourced from over seventy schools with trainees having two contrasting placements over the year but also learning in more than ten schools throughout the course.

Commenting generally, Ofsted reports that 'leadership and management are exceptional. Leaders are relentless in the pursuit of excellence. ... Leaders have cultivated a high-performance environment where trainees achieve highly ... They are successful in their aim to make excellent teachers that 'stand out from the crowd'. These are comments that make the North East Partnership's SCITT Director, Sarah Ramsden, glow with pride. She said: It truly is a partnership.

Leaders and partner schools are driven to provide exceptional training, mentoring and support. Those who train with us at the North East Partnership SCITT are extremely well placed to not only secure employment and qualify as outstanding teachers, but they become part of something much bigger – a family of like-minded professionals who are determined to improve life chances for young



people and encourage lifelong participation in physical activity and sport.

*North East Partnership SCITT Core Team from left to right: Sarah Beall, Joanne Fairley, Sarah Ramsden and Sally Bryson.*

“We are all delighted with this latest report which reflects the high expectations we have for our trainees and their future careers as well as referencing our exceptional outcomes. All our training is completely school led, which means trainees are well equipped for their first teaching roles.

“Whilst it is another year in training and another year of fees, given our exceptional employability figures, all our students believe it is more than worth it. In fact, we have such fantastic links with so many schools that many of our former trainees go on to become NEPSCITT mentors because they want to give something back to show their gratitude for the support they received when they were here.”

Chris Bell, a current student in the fifth week of his second placement began his course last September. He is no exception. Already with two interviews pending for a permanent post in the North East for the forthcoming academic year, he gained his degree in Sports Psychology at Leeds Trinity University and opted for the NEPSCITT course because, as he said, 'it is the best in the country with high employability rates.'

He continued: "I am really enjoying it. I always planned to go into teaching right from high school days and it has been great to see how children respond to sport and physical activity. It gets children out of the classroom environment and develops other life skills too."



*Chris Bell discusses his progress with Deputy SCITT Director, Sally Bryson.*

Sarah continued: "We still have places available for our September intake and would be delighted to hear from any graduate with either a 2:1 sport-related degree for our secondary course, or a relevant degree for primary education along with an interest in PE, sport or dance. We can provide a great entry point to pursue a career in teaching secondary physical education or primary education with a PE specialism and after all, it's not every day that students can embark on a course knowing they are 99% certain of a job at the end."

Ofsted inspectors visited NEPSCITT in January/February 2022.

