

“Trainee Chat”



Saffron Lenihan Secondary History Teacher

Why did you decide to train to teach? What inspired you?

My teachers at Outwood Academy City have always been an inspiration to me. They were, and still are, selfless, hard-working individuals who changed my life for the better. I am eternally grateful for their unwavering belief in me. My hope is that one day I too will empower my students, to give them the tools to go out into the world and achieve success in whichever form they wish. I truly believe it only takes one person to believe in our success, for us to believe in ourselves. I also love history! I believe there are so many lessons to learn from our past. A quote displayed in the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum by George Santayana reads: 'Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it'. For me, this encapsulates why history is so important. History teaches students to be tolerant human beings, critical thinkers, and encourages a moral understanding of the world.

Why did you choose to train to teach with Outwood and the National Institute of Teaching?

Training with Outwood and the NlOT was an easy decision for me. The Outwood 'Students First' vision captures why I love to teach. Students are at the heart of all of the training the NlOT provides, from 'how learners learn' to 'responsive teaching'. The research-based training curriculum has provided me with the tools needed to not only teach and aid student progression, but also to form trusting relationships and create a safe environment for students.

Please describe your experiences so far?

I have loved every second of my training year so far! The research opportunities have been enlightening, and being in the classroom is the most rewarding experience I have ever had. Teacher training requires dedication, lots of time, and resilience. There are days where lessons do not go to plan, students don't behave the way you expect them to, and the workload can seem overwhelming. However, I am constantly being challenged and continue to better myself, not only as a History teacher, but also as an individual.

What level of support have you received in your training so far?

The level of support I have received during my training so far has been exceptional. I feel honoured to be part of such a welcoming and supportive teaching community who continue to go above and beyond for each other, and our students. I can not express my gratitude in enough words to the team at the NlOT, who deliver world class training each week and continue to champion us to progress.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about becoming a teacher?

Go for it! The impact you can have on the students and their community is invaluable. Each day is different, and brings with it an abundance of rewarding moments.