LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

WELCOME

Happy New Year!

As we welcome 2026, I want to take this opportunity to extend our warmest New Year wishes to you all as our valued partners. We hope you have had a restful break and are looking forward to the year ahead as much as we are.

The start of a new year is always a time for reflection, and looking back over the past twelve months, we are incredibly grateful for the support you have provided to our students. Your commitment to their growth and development has made a tangible difference to their educational experience. Whether through mentoring, supporting us in our development work or simply sharing your time and expertise, your involvement has impacted in ensuring that we work towards out common goal of having the best teachers in the profession.



We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and look forward to working even more closely with you throughout 2026. Building and strengthening our partnerships remains a key priority for us, and we believe that by working together, we can create meaningful opportunities for our students to learn, grow, and prepare for their futures.

We are particularly keen to explore new avenues for collaboration this year. If you have ideas for projects or initiatives you would like to develop with us, we would love to hear from you. Whatever your thoughts, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Here is to a successful, collaborative, and rewarding 2026 for us all!

Yours in partnership,

Pinky Jain

Head of Teacher

Education

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CELEBRATING SUCCESS





Mentor Training Conference

On Friday 14th November we held our first mentor conference of the year.

It was excellent to see so many of our School-Based Mentors in attendance. Sessions on the day included;

- *The Nature of Students and Mentoring: Rethinking the Mentor-Student Relationship*
- *Making decisions on a student's progress on placement*
- *Thinking about Reasonable Adjustments*

We are most grateful for the useful input of mentors in these sessions, particularly the last one above, as your input will be used to help develop university policy.

Feedback received has been positive and here are some comments from those in attendance:

"University staff asked some excellent questions and we were able to discuss these in our groups share experiences and offer up some solutions."

"It was really helpful to consider what we already do and what else could be done."

"I've really enjoyed the opportunity to listen to you all today. In a busy and frantic life as a teacher having the space and time to sit, think and reflect it really refreshing. I'm hugely impressed with the cohesion of the course, how the wellbeing and needs of the students are important but equally not shying away from the reality and demands of school life."

*The next conference will be on **Wednesday 25th March**. You can book onto this conference via the ESTEEM mentor training platform , and we hope to see as many of you there as possible.*

Undergraduate Final Year Students



*We would like to congratulate our **117 undergraduate year 3** students who successfully completed their final placement before Christmas by meeting the Teachers' Standards.*

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the incredible level of support and guidance you offer our students on placements as School-Based Mentors. Alongside the thanks our students will have offered, we would like to say an enormous thanks, the work you do it truly appreciated.

Here are some of the thoughts of our students:

"My mentor was absolutely lovely throughout the entire placement and so supportive. She always invited me to various events, so I had lots of opportunities to learn."

"Feeling trusted to teach and plan 80% and receiving positive, constructive feedback and applying it in my teaching."

"This placement provided a valuable opportunity for me to develop my behaviour management skills, which had been a key professional target."

External Examiner Feedback

In December we had a visit from our External Examiners (tutors in Primary Education from other Universities) to quality assure our phase 3 placements and the Leeds Beckett Partnership.

Thank you to those of you that welcomed Louise, Lucy or Richard into school for them to observe the student teaching and meet with mentors and students. I am pleased to feedback that the examiners were very positive about the quality of student's teaching and the support that was being offered to students, as well as the working of our Partnership. They felt that the students had been well prepared for placement, the university recall day was supportive and that the university listens to and acts on feedback to develop and evolve.

The external examiners saw examples of really supportive mentoring and felt that the improvements in PebblePad were really helping to track progress and allow mentors to access the university curriculum. The mentors that they spoke with were very positive about the training and support on offer via the conferences and the ESTEEM platform as well as from the University Lead Mentors.

New Partnership Schools

We would like to warmly welcome 29 new schools and colleges to the partnership who will be taking students on placement in this Spring term.

They are:

·Ackworth School

·Addingham Primary School

·Atlas Community Primary School

·Beckfoot Oakbank School

·Burley St Matthias CofE Primary School

·Burnley Springfield Community Primary School

·Castle Hall Academy

·Cheshire College

·Eden Boys' Leadership Academy

·Glasshoughton Infant Academy

·Greenhead College

·Hanging Heaton CofE Junior and Infant School

·Hebden Royd C of E Primary School

·Hightown First and Nursery School

·Horsforth New Laithes

·Lane End Primary School

·Lightcliffe Academy

·Malin Bridge Primary School

·Oldfield Primary School

·Queensway Primary School

·Ripon Cathedral C Of E Primary School

·Rishworth School

·Rosebank Primary School

·South Kirkby Common Road Infant and Nursery School

·St John's Catholic Specialist School for the Deaf

·St Michael and All Angels CofE Primary & Pre School

·The Froebelian School

·The Vale Primary Academy

·Wellfield School

·Victoria Primary Academy

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



At the Carnegie School of Education, we work collaboratively in partnership with a wide range of schools within the Yorkshire and Humber region to establish good practice and grow two-way developmental relationships to benefit schools, colleges, trusts and our students.

We are always looking for ways to further develop our partnerships. If you would like to talk about how we might work together or are interested in what more we might be able to offer your school, please contact our Partnership Lead (contact details at the bottom of this newsletter) who would be happy to visit you in your school or meet virtually.

We welcome offers to take our students on placement

We have a variety of excellent students who we can place in your nursery, primary school or secondary school throughout the year, including:

·Undergraduate Primary 3-11 with QTS students in years 1, 2 and 3 of their courses

·Postgraduate Primary 3-11 with QTS students who follow a one-year full time course

·Postgraduate Secondary 11-18 with QTS students for English, Maths, Physical Education and Physics who follow a one-year full time course.

Supporting a student in your setting means:

·New perspectives to innovate and enrich the classroom experience

·An additional resource freeing up time for focused or accelerated development of pupil groups

·Possible future teachers for your school

·Evidence of a commitment to the DfE priority for teacher education

·Dedicated support from a university Lead Mentor for both student and mentor throughout placement

·Free mentor training

If you would like to talk to us about what supporting a student in your setting means and the benefits of this, please contact our Partnership Lead who would be happy to visit you in your school or meet virtually (contact details at the bottom of this newsletter).

Upcoming Student Placements

Please find below a brief overview of the placements we will be looking for during the current academic year (please note dates may be subject to slight change). If you have any questions or can make offers for any for these placements, please email us via carnegie.partnerships@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Cohort	Phase	Start Date	End Date	Total Number of Days
Undergraduate				
BA (Hons) Primary Education Level 4	Phase 1	Tuesday 17th March 2026 *(3 ITAP Days T-T)* Monday 23rd March - Start Full Time	Friday 15th May 2026	30 (+ 3 ITAP Days)
Postgraduate Primary				
PGCE Primary Education (Full-time Route)	Phase 2	Tuesday 3rd March 2026 - Induction Day	Thursday 9th July 2026	65 (+ 3 ITAP Days)
Postgraduate Secondary				
PGCE Secondary Education (Full-time Route)	Phase 2	Thursday 26th February 2026 - Induction Day	Thursday 9th July 2026	69 (+ 3 ITAP Days)

MENTORS

Mentor Training

Alongside the three mentor conferences we offer each year, our ESTEEM mentor training platform is now up and running. On this platform, you will be able to book on to these conferences as well as register for drop-in support sessions.

On this platform you will also find self-directed training courses covering:

·Essential mentor training

·A self-assessment for mentors to identify gaps

·Carrying out observations

·Developing working relationships with students

·Dilemma based coaching

·Establishing effective working relationships that are collaborative and purposeful

·Handling difficult conversations

·Supporting deliberate practice

·The anti-racism framework for mentors

·Understanding how students learn

Please do keep an eye on this platform, as there are several more courses in development that will appear soon. These include:

·Celebrating and supporting equality diversity and inclusion

·Critically inquiring into research

·Evidence-based target setting

·Giving in-task feedback

·Supporting the needs of all students

·The ITTECF framework

·Using deliberate practice to accelerate progress

If you feel there are any further training courses that would support you in your role, please do not hesitate to contact with us via the details at the bottom of this newsletter.

PebblePad Update



For the undergraduate phase 3 and postgraduate phase 1 students, we have undertaken a moderation of a sample of student PebblePad workbooks.

This year's updated PebblePad workbooks are generally working very well and are being completed more consistently. Targets set by students are far better than last year, as is recording attendance.

Areas where PebblePad could still be better used include:

·Students updating their school information page and fully completing progress and final review pages

·The Core Area tables being used as working documents and being updated

·There should be a Mentor comment in each weekly meeting (only 63% of those sampled had this)

MEET THE UNIVERSITY TEAM



Ryan Ellis, Lecturer

Ryan currently works as a lecturer across our undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Primary Education. He teaches across a wide range of modules, with his area of expertise lying in primary Physical Education. He enjoys delivering both theory and practical sessions to all of our students. Other roles he undertakes at university include personal tutoring and lead mentoring, which allows him to support and guide our students on their journey into teaching.

Prior to working at Leeds Beckett, he worked as a Primary PE Consultant, delivering CPD to schools and ITE providers in the north of England. This followed on from his career as a primary school teacher and PE lead in a school located in North Yorkshire. His interest in Physical Education lead to the creation of a podcast in 2015, titled 'The PE Umbrella', in which he has conversations with practitioners from across the world about what 'great' primary PE really is.

He was born and raised in Leeds and even completed his own undergraduate degree at Leeds Beckett University, so has a great sense of pride to now work here and help inspire the next generation of teachers. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his wife and two children, keeping active where possible. He loves the outdoors and recently discovered Padel, which he plays on weekends when he gets the chance. He is also a fair-weather golfer, enjoying a round of golf for the great company of friends as much as the hacking around and occasional sensational shot!

Upcoming events going on at the wider University you might be interested in…

***Story Makers Conference* – Friday 13th and 14th March 2026: Rewilding the Curriculum: Creative Pedagogies for Collective Wellbeing, Positive Relationships and Learner Agency**

Do you want to learn how to embed collective creativity, ethical action, and social-emotional skills across subjects? Join primary school teachers, senior leaders, creative practitioners, and cultural partners for an immersive conference exploring the learning potential of creative pedagogies. Discover how creative pedagogies can transform learning, foster wellbeing, and empower student agency and participate in hands-on workshops led by teachers, creative practitioners, researchers, and young people, exploring innovative ways to co-design curricula. We will share impact data and research from across these projects on pupil social-emotional learning and attainment. We will share innovative pedagogy from 5 years research with schools. Be inspired. Share ideas. Rewild the curriculum. ***Tickets cost £35*** *– full details can be found* ***here*****.**

Creative Pedagogies Teachers Network

At Story Makers (the Research Centre for Creative Pedagogies) we are developing a school newsletter and free teacher network to share events, curriculum practices and resources- please can you fill in the form here if you would like to join.

Our Partnership Team

Our dedicated Partnership Team is there to make sure that absolutely everything surrounding the placement of our students with you runs smoothly. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any advice or information.

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