

PGCE English Welcome Pack: 2023-24

Hi everyone,

Congratulations on gaining your place on the course: a very warm welcome to the PGCE Secondary English programme here at Cardiff Met.

It will be a busy, exciting and challenging year. The tasks detailed below will help you prepare for the course:

### **1) CONFIRMATION OF PLACE**

When you receive this pack, email me at [remulligan@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:remulligan@cardiffmet.ac.uk) to confirm that you will be starting with us in September 2023.

### **2) READING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

As teachers of reading, we need to be readers. Read a range of literature suitable for young people, e.g.

- 'classic' texts
- contemporary fiction
- prize-winning fiction e.g. <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/tag/2023/>
- Look at Good Reads for inspiration (<https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/childrens>)

The aim is to boost your book knowledge before you go into the classroom, so try to read a range between now and the beginning of your school placements in October.

I would also encourage you to explore the current text list for the WJEC GCSE English literature exams: <https://thenationalcurriculum.com/gcse-english-literature-texts/> The WJEC exam board is the only one currently used by schools in Wales, so it is the only list you will need at the moment, but this landing page includes links to other exam boards (AQA, CCEA EdExcel, OCR and Eduqas) - some interesting points of comparison! I'm sure you will be surprised by how many of the current WJEC GCSE English literature texts you know (either from having studied them yourself or from your own general reading!)

### **3) WRITING – A MINI-SAGA**

As teachers of writing, we need to be writers, so let's get going! Write a 50-word mini-saga - in exactly 50 words. The theme/focus/topic/genre is completely up to you. See this page about teaching a lesson on mini-sagas:

- <https://www.cambridge.org/us/education/blog/mini-sagas>

Please email me ([remulligan@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:remulligan@cardiffmet.ac.uk)) your mini-saga by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September**. (This is just about playing with words, so enjoy the challenge!)

#### 4) READING ABOUT TEACHING

E.g. dip into any of the following:

- Capel, S., Leask, M. and Turner, T. (2016) Learning to teach in the secondary school, 7th edn. London: Routledge.
- Muijs, D. and Reynolds, D. (2010) Effective teaching: evidence and practice, 3rd edn. London: Sage.
- Sherrington, T. (2019) Rosenshine's Principles in Action. Woodbridge: John Catt Educational Ltd.

Read about English teaching, e.g.

- Clarke, S., Dickenson, P. and Westbrook, J. (2009) The complete guide to becoming an English teacher, 2nd edn. London: Sage.
- Wright, T. (2012) How to become a brilliant English teacher. 2nd edn. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Quigley, A. (2018) Closing the Vocabulary Gap. Oxon: Routledge.

#### 5) EXPLORING WEBSITES

There are certain websites that will be very helpful to you. Take the opportunity to explore them now.

- NATE (National Association for the Teaching of English) <https://www.nate.org.uk/>
- The UKLA (UK Literacy Association) <https://ukla.org/>
- The National Literacy Trust <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/>
- The British Library (Look at the 'Discover' section) <http://www.bl.uk/>
- The curriculum – start reading about some of the changes that are taking place in the curriculum: <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/>

I look forward to reading your mini-sagas, and to discussing your reading in September.

Enjoy the tasks and enjoy the summer.

Best wishes

*Rhian*

**Rhian Mulligan**

**Programme Leader PGCE Secondary English**