



# Training to Teach at St Albans Girls'

*At St Albans Girls' School we are proud to have the opportunity to work with people who wish to join the teaching profession. We have a lot of experience in developing the skills of beginning teachers and offer a variety of experiences for our colleagues.*

*Teaching is a vocation and the nurturing of the talents of young people a privilege.*

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At St Albans Girls' School we have many years of experience of working with teacher training providers such as Middlesex and Hertfordshire Universities as well as the Institute of Education at UCL.

We joined the Alban Federation partnership in 2012 and have developed our work with them alongside the more traditional routes of teacher training.

Trainee teachers are teamed up with a subject mentor who is charged with the day to day support of the trainee. Teaching timetable organisation, lesson observation feedback and other discussions take

place in weekly mentor sessions.

Trainees also follow a programme of professional studies sessions where they cover a series of topics related to teaching and learning as well as the wider development of their whole school role (such as working as a form tutor).

The school's Professional Learning Mentor oversees the development of the trainees and is available for discussions when necessary.

The completion of evidence files against the teachers standards is a key part of the training experience and all trainees are expected to compile their evidence folders as the course progresses.

## **The School Direct Programme**

The Alban Federation has been a School Centered Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) provider since 2004. It is based at Sandringham School in St Albans and works in partnership with the Alban TSA. The School Direct Programme of teacher training has two routes ~ a fee paying (funded) route and a salaried route. Trainees experience different programmes according to their route within the scheme, but all trainees come together for certain core sessions and specialist visits during the year. Trainees have to attend a four week second placement in a school that is clearly different to STAGS and this is arranged by the trainee with support from the Professional Learning Mentor.

## **Why choose schools based training?**

Entering teaching through the schools based route allows applicants to visit the school that they are hoping to train with before they have accepted a position on the course. Both the school and the applicant can then ensure that they are a 'good fit' for each other. Applicants have the chance to ask questions and get clarification about the way the school would handle their training and the school can ensure that the applicant is someone who will work well within the department as well as the school.

The trainees who have worked with us have commented on how valuable this experience has been for them and we are also very pleased with the way in which the programme has brought us very good candidates.

Our trainees have immersed themselves in the school community and have developed their skills both within and outside of the classroom. We encourage our trainees to be a part of the extra curricular events that take place including the residential weekend for Year 7s as well as house based charity events, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and off site visits.

