**Primary School Direct Programme**

**Recruitment 2016/17**

**Briefing for Headteachers**

**Information**

The King Edward VI School was recently awarded teaching school status.

We are in the process of transferring the name of the School Direct lead school from Morpeth Chantry Middle School to The King Edward VI School.

The change is administrative and will not affect the overall running of School Direct programmes.

**Primary recruitment 2016/17**

The Morpeth Chantry Partnership aims to recruit 16 primary trainee teachers for 2016/17.

Our Primary partnership consists of the following schools:

* Chantry Middle School
* Newminster Middle School
* Corbridge Middle School
* Abbeyfields First School
* Morpeth (Goosehill ) First School
* St Robert’s R.C. First School
* Cambo First School
* Felton CoE First School
* Swansfield Park First School, Alnwick
* The Grove Special School, Berwick
* + Cramlington primary schools?

The UCAS search facility went live on 6th October.

Applications can be made from October 27th. Interview days will begin after half term.

**Changes to allocations for 2016/17**

The national process for recruitment has changed this year. There is no limit to the number of trainees that a lead school may recruit to any of its programmes. However the National College has established national quotas for phases/subjects. Once this quota has been reached, all further recruitment to that programme will cease on UCAS.

One of the advantages to this system is that we can add partner schools at any time during the year and can in theory recruit more than the 16 primary trainees that we originally requested.

However the disadvantage of the new system, which is a trial for this year only, is that there is likely to be a race on the part of lead schools to secure trainees before the national quota is reached. We cannot know when this will be.

With this in mind it is essential that as a partnership, we vigorously market our School Direct programme from the outset and respond very quickly to interview suitable candidates.

**Marketing of the School Direct Programme 2016/17**

We would be very grateful if all partner schools would assist in promoting the School Direct programme. Experience has taught us that many potential candidates are unaware of the School Direct route into teaching. We will be placing articles in the local press and distributing posters and flyers in local shops and libraries. There will be a series of open evenings and school experience days organised by King Edward’s and Chantry.

In addition, please would partner schools also adopt the following strategies to market School Direct:

* Include a link to the partnership School Direct web pages on your own school website. Make sure it says “teacher training”, for those who remain unaware what School Direct is!

<http://www.kevi.info/teaching-school> (N.B. These web pages now form part of the King Edward VI Teaching School site).

* All schools will be sent posters and flyers. Please display these around your reception areas and make them visible at parents’ evenings.
* Advertise your School Direct vacancy on your website, especially if you are in one of our more geographically remote areas (Berwick, Alnwick, Cambo).
* Include a short article about School Direct teacher training in your Newsletter. Include a link to the website <http://www.kevi.info/teaching-school>

**Interview process for 2016/17**

As the partnership expands and the allocations system becomes highly competitive, we need to adapt our interview process:

* We need to invite candidates to interview very quickly following receipt of their application. Ideally we should interview a group, but this may not always be possible.
* Interviews will normally take place on a Friday, although other days will be arranged depending upon receipt of applications.
* Interviews will be held in schools around the partnership by prior agreement with the headteacher.
* Once an application or applications have been received, I will arrange an interview date and a school to host the interviews. I will circulate application forms to all the headteachers of the partnership schools. If headteachers feel any of the candidates would be suitable for their school, they may attend the interview. (However we clearly need to limit the number of people on the interview panel.)
* The interview panel will consist of the Lead School Mentor (Sue Brown) and at least 2 headteachers. Marion Stewart, the university school support partner will attend some interviews.
* The interview will consist of a 20 minute learning episode, a short presentation prepared on the day and a formal interview. (The presentation will be about planning a thematic unit around the topic of the beach. This was original one of the interview questions.)

**NOTES**

* **Headteachers who attend the interviews will have priority in selecting candidates for their own schools.**
* **CHANGE As it is important not to lose good quality candidates to other partnerships, the interview panel reserves the right to appoint suitable candidates to the partnership on behalf of those schools that have not yet recruited. Headteachers will not necessarily have the opportunity to interview their own trainees.**

**School Direct Contract 2016/17**

An updated contract will the circulated prior to the October 27th when UCAS will open the application process.

SBr October 2015