



Medway Teaching
School Alliance

Training the
next generation of
inspiring teachers



The Medway Teaching Schools Alliance

The Medway Teaching Schools Alliance is a forward thinking group of 75+ schools who are committed to developing excellent teachers. We are experienced providers of initial teacher training, having been at the forefront of School Direct since its inception as well as supporting many PGCE placements, hosting a Summer School for Teach First, and working as a lead consortium school within the new national Troops to Teachers programme.

The schools within the Alliance span the early years, primary, secondary, post-16 and special needs sectors. This rich diversity enables MTSA to offer a stimulating and challenging training experience. Our trainees work alongside and learn from outstanding teachers and gain experience in a range of settings and contexts.

“Working as a Trainee Teacher with the MTSA has been a most rewarding experience.”

James,
School Direct Trainee
2014/15





Improving the life chances of children

Every pupil deserves to be taught by innovative and outstanding teachers in a school with outstanding leadership. All teachers and school leaders deserve access to professional development to enable them to model and lead quality teaching.

The Medway Teaching Schools Alliance is driven by a desire to train and develop inspiring, enthusiastic and skillful teachers who are willing to work hard and grasp every opportunity offered and share our relentless determination to make a difference to the lives of children in Medway.

The children and students within the Alliance schools are happy, eager to learn, responsive and aspire to achieve. We are looking for trainee teachers who share these aspirations and will help our children to reach their potential.

We are looking for ambitious and inspirational trainee teachers who are passionate and enthusiastic about their own learning. As trainees you will work alongside teachers

in a culture of research and development, where teaching practice is informed by evidence about what has maximum impact on learning and pupil progress. You will have regular opportunities to share practice with colleagues, through our programme of lectures, action research projects and visits to outstanding schools.

MTSA offers trainees a challenging, creative and rigorous training programme led by a team of experienced teachers, school leaders and university lecturers, that will prepare you for a career in teaching.

We look forward to welcoming you to our staff and to our community.



“The School Direct course provided me with invaluable hands on experience and I was surrounded by a fantastic support system that has helped me become a successful teacher.”

Amelia, School Direct Trainee
2014/15

Partners in the development of teachers

Training excellent teachers for our schools is a core aim of the Alliance. Headteachers and senior leaders work together to design, develop and regularly evaluate the training programme so that it includes the opportunities which will give you the very best chance to become an outstanding teacher who can help children reach their potential and to carry a passion for learning with them throughout their lives.



The Alliance is a diverse group that spans the primary and secondary phases, including special, selective and non-selective schools in a variety of rural and urban settings. MTSA can offer our trainees extensive choice regarding placements and home schools as well as frequent opportunities to visit and learn from different schools.

Your training is the first step in your career in teaching and MTSA's initial teacher training programme is the first stage in our career-long framework for professional and leadership development. We will nurture your talent throughout and beyond your training, giving you every opportunity to shape your career by continuing to learn from outstanding teachers, taking part in leadership development and gaining experiences in a range of schools throughout.



We hope that on completion you will want to work within the Alliance. As evidence of our commitment to your continued employment within the Alliance, MTSA operates a guaranteed interview scheme for School Direct trainees. If you choose to apply elsewhere we will provide support and guidance in securing the best first step for you.

Trainee teachers are our next generation of leaders of education; our commitment to your professional development starts with initial teacher training and continues throughout your career. As a trainee and later as an NQT and beyond you will work in an environment that enables every individual to tailor a programme of professional development to enhance your subject knowledge, classroom practice and leadership skills.

“I chose to train with MTSA as you feel far more connected to the school and are treated as if you are a member of staff, rather than an outside trainee. I am looking forward to see how the pupils I teach progress throughout the entire year.”

James, School Direct Trainee
2015/16

The Alliance works in partnership and co-operation with Canterbury Christ Church University, judged by Ofsted to be an

Outstanding provider of initial teacher training. This partnership ensures that the training offered in schools is supported by a strong theoretical underpinning and rigorous quality assurance. Trainees are taught, mentored and assessed by a team comprising experienced school teachers and university tutors.

Our staff are inspirational, knowledgeable and have a proven track record in developing, challenging and supporting trainee teachers. The Alliance boasts staff with exceptional expertise in all areas of education who are ready to share this expertise with our trainees. Together we are excited by the creativity and enjoyment of teaching, leading and innovating.

Values driven training

The Alliance works closely with Canterbury Christ Church University to deliver training which combines strong theoretical knowledge and understanding of learning, teaching, pedagogy and child development with substantial experience of the school environment and practice of teaching in the classroom.

All trainees are potential leaders of the future and so our initial teacher training programme features experiences which we believe build leadership characteristics: opportunities to research, to value peer coaching, to learn about a range of school contexts and to work collaboratively.

MTSA offers both School Direct and School Direct salaried courses and training routes which lead either to a PGCE or QTS qualification with options to include M-level credits in both routes.

A guidance interview will support you in making your choice of pathway and once on course your mentor will work with you to tailor your programme to meet your individual needs and interests.

You will be trained in a highly supportive and aspirational environment and will develop the rigour, professional and subject knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for engaging children and young people in creative, purposeful and challenging learning.



- Training that is led by University Tutors and experienced teachers and leaders from schools
- Highly trained and experienced school based mentors
- Access to University facilities and resources
- An entitlement to the full range of MTSA professional development events and activities
- Expert support to carry out individual action research projects
- Opportunities to work as part of a community of trainees and with a vibrant community of experienced teachers
- Two extensive placements in contrasting schools from the Alliance
- Opportunity to experience primary, secondary and post-16 teaching
- A placement period in one of our outstanding Special Schools
- Masters level credits
- Expert guidance to support you in choosing the best training pathway





Who are we looking for?

We are looking for ambitious and inspirational trainee teachers who are passionate and enthusiastic about learning. People who are willing to work hard and grasp every opportunity offered in order to make a difference to the lives of children in Medway.

Experience of working or volunteering in a school is essential in helping you make decisions about your future and demonstrating your commitment to teaching. MTSA operates a School Experience Programme through which support is provided to applicants seeking school based experience.

What to do next?

Full details of how to apply for the School Direct programme is via the UCAS Teacher Training website www.ucas.com or you can access this and further information via the MTSA website www.mtsa.co.uk

To help support you in making your decisions about application, we offer:

- Open Evenings throughout the academic year where you can meet staff, talk to previous School Direct trainees and find out more about our programmes
- Information on our website www.mtsa.co.uk about School Direct and the opportunities available to you
- A School Experience Programme through which we can help you arrange a placement in an appropriate school in our Alliance. This will give you a better all round experience and expectation of the role
- Opportunities for informal discussions and school visits

If you have any further questions or would like to talk to us about the School Direct programme please telephone **01634 844008** or email us info@mtsa.co.uk



“Learning to teach through the School Direct training programme has been an amazing and rewarding experience and I would really recommend this route into teaching for any trainee teacher.”

Daniel, School Direct Trainee
2014-15



Medway Teaching School Alliance

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National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Canterbury
Christ Church
University