

“Trainee Chat”



Marcelina Jasek Primary (5-11)

Why did you decide to train to teach? What inspired you?

As a music production graduate, my creative and practical education meant that having a role model and a mentor was an extremely important part of my journey. I have been inspired by teachers and educators who supported me throughout my life, which made me wonder if I could be that pillar of support to others. I've also been inspired by the wonderful female figures in my life (my beautiful mother and auntie) who raised me and taught me the importance of self-reflection, structure and organisation, which are some of many features that make teachers!

Why did you choose to train to teach with Outwood and the National Institute of Teaching?

Over 10 years ago, when I first came to the UK from Poland, I started my education journey at Outwood Academy Foxhills. The support and opportunities I've received as an EAL student made me want to further pursue the Outwood route - this time from a teacher's perspective. Overall, I'd say pursuing this career and training through Outwood started as curiosity and intrigue, but it very quickly turned to passion and loyalty.

Please describe your experiences so far?

I have felt amazing support from the NIoT mentor, Emma, who's approachable, down to earth and encouraging. However, the highlight of the course has been my wonderful cohort of talented and passionate trainees, who are always there to cheer each other on and pick each other up in times of struggle. I could not have asked for a better experience and I hope this continues for future NIoT trainees.

What level of support have you received in your training so far?

Starting with clear and consistent communication, all the way to emotional support, this course has absolutely delivered. We're provided with many resources to improve our subject knowledge, pedagogy and further training opportunities. The training sessions are the highlight of my week, as we get to share our experiences and discuss various classroom scenarios. We, as a cohort have been very reflective on every event on this journey, which has helped me develop into a confident teacher trainee and future teacher.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about becoming a teacher?

I would definitely advise any future trainee to start with organisation and maintain that throughout the year. Document and record everything you do training wise, as well as anything you contribute to the school life and your classroom. Keep your files tidy and easy to find! Also, on a personal development level, have confidence! Do not doubt yourself and take every 'mistake' as an opportunity to learn. This course is quite intense, as nothing good ever comes easy, so be kind to yourself and take this course as a time to figure out a healthy work to life balance. Organise, practice self-care and be confident! Also, ask any questions you might have, as nothing is a silly question.