



Ollie Woods - Computing

Year trained:
2017-18

Why you are glad you chose to train with us:

Choosing a SCITT over the university-based route put me straight into the classroom from day 1 which gave me more experience and confidence in my teaching. I felt supported by my tutor and the course staff who really cared about my journey to qualifying as a teacher.

Where your work life has taken you so far:

While I've stayed at the school I trained at since qualifying, I've had so many experiences and have sunk my teeth into different roles and responsibilities. A qualified Computer Science teacher, I've also taught Business Studies to GCSE and KS3 Music. I've been up the Three Peaks for charity with other teachers and to Spain with a group of Y9s. I've helped coach a cricket team, conducted a wind band, taught students how to dance the cha cha cha, played bass in the school musical, gigged with a band of other teachers, and facilitated a group of students creating an AI-based educational concept. My most notable achievement (and challenge!) was helping to develop the school's online learning platform at the start of the pandemic, training and supporting teachers while also teaching live lessons from my conservatory!

What's challenging about teaching:

Most days are hectic. You do find yourself taking some work home, which you don't have in other jobs. Many students are lovely but some present with challenging behaviour. Oh, and whiteboard pens run out way too easily!

Equally why you choose to continue in teaching:

I can't imagine any other job that is as rewarding. Getting to know your students and forming mutually respectful relationships is so important. There's a real sense of satisfaction in seeing a student "get" what you've just taught. I love being able to impart both knowledge and enthusiasm for my subject(s) - as well as sharing my various hobbies too.

Where you hope to develop:

In the short term I want to tweak things such as my behaviour management so that I'm the best class teacher I can be. After that I see several paths. I'd like to teach GCSE Music as this is my degree subject, but I'd also like to explore other routes such as Pastoral. I know I definitely want to become a mentor and give back by helping to develop new teachers.

