

Broadening horizons

My motivation for joining the Wipro programme was to further develop my mentoring skills by:

- working with colleagues from Sheffield Hallam University
- collaborating with mentors from other schools
- developing a network of mentor colleagues
- mentoring an NQT colleague in a different context

Mentor training

Mentor training, led by Richard Pountney at Sheffield Hallam University, explored the role of mentors and challenged my thinking and practice. The webinars and completing mentoring workbooks prompted me to read around the subject and reflect on my mentoring practice. New insights prepared me well for working with my Teacher Fellow.

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I have learnt that the most powerful tool for improving my practice is communication and networking amongst professionals at different stages in their teaching career, across a broad range of settings.”

Quotes from my Teacher Fellows

“My confidence has improved massively, especially with experimenting in the classroom with new ideas. My mentor has been key to this success by discussing the context of my classroom and planning activities to suit my classes.”

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Developing relationships

Building a strong Mentor-Fellow relationship was achieved by setting regular monthly face to face meetings where we shared and discussed alternative approaches for teaching specific subject areas, explored classroom practice, reviewed progress and set actions. My mentoring role throughout this time involved supporting and developing the reflections of the mentee through asking key questions about the impact of practice on the students learning. Lockdown hindered the face to face meetings but we were still able to keep in touch through WhatsApp video calls.

Impact

The WIPRO programme has provided the opportunity to collaborate and support an outstanding Teacher Fellow. I have strengthened my own mentoring practice (as well as impacting on her teaching practice) The focus on research evidence led to amendments to our school's NQT programme. We now have a greater emphasis on subject specific professional development and pedagogies.