



# Transforming Lives **Together**



**Initial Teacher  
Education  
Prospectus**



**“Teaching and studying at the same time is a wonderful opportunity to become the best teacher I can. The immersion in the school environment is for me the best way to succeed and learn. This situation allowed me to build great relationships with my colleagues and the pupils.”**

Alison – trainee teacher



# Contents

Welcome	4
Why choose us?	6
Beyond the classroom	8
Course details	10
Programme overview	11
Entry requirements	12
Recruitment process	13
Teach in the city	14
Our partner schools	15
Our team	16
Diversity, equity and inclusion	17
Funding	19

# Welcome

## Together we will transform lives

At the Mulberry College of Teaching, we are passionate about the transformative power of teaching. We strive to provide an inclusive and aspirational learning environment for all our students that focuses on excellent outcomes, collaboration and creative teaching.



We invest in and value our teachers. By learning to teach with us, you will be immersed in schools and will learn from school-based subject specialists as well as a range of expert practitioners whose practice is grounded in the best available research.

Based in the heart of East London, you will join our supportive professional learning community of Trust schools and local secondary school partners. Together, we appreciate the complexities and joys of working in a diverse inner-city urban community and will support you to excel.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Mulberry College of Teaching and learning more about you and your aspirations.

**“I am very grateful for having started my teacher training at Mulberry. The English department, in particular, have been so welcoming and supportive in my transition to teaching. There is no teaching day that is ever the same, which I think is amazing. Every day comes with new experiences, new memories and further professional development.”**

Ameera – trainee teacher

**“The schools share an approach which is to support and nurture their trainee teachers to become confident, ambitious and often outstanding practitioners in their subjects. I have certainly felt challenged through my teacher training so far – but at all times supported and offered help and advice by the most experienced and willing of colleagues.”**

Oliver – trainee teacher



# Why choose us?

**Become part of our professional learning community at the Mulberry College of Teaching, where excellent outcomes, collaboration and creative teaching are key to helping all students excel.**

The Mulberry Schools Trust is proud to be at the forefront of secondary initial teacher education, through its accredited Mulberry College of Teaching (MCoT).

Situated in the heart of East London, MCoT is committed to providing both inclusive and aspirational education. We are dedicated to inspiring excellence and unlocking the potential of teachers devoted to teaching their subject.

Our shared vision and values reflect the Mulberry Schools Trust's commitment to quality education and you can explore its exceptional work further [here](#). It includes the [East London Teaching School Hub](#) – one of only 87 Teaching School Hubs in the country. By joining MCoT, you will be surprised and inspired by the rich and varied career opportunities available to the teaching profession.

With the support of our Trust schools and local secondary school partners, we work hard to create a strong learning community with high expectations and aspirations.

You will gain professional experience and expertise from the best specialist subject teachers and colleagues – all of whom share a passion for their work and have a deep understanding of the complexities of working in an inner-city, urban and diverse community.

You will be placed in a 'home school' (one of our Trust or lead partner schools) for the majority of your training along with a complementary placement at one of our other schools. You will have sustained weekly contact with MCoT where you will be immersed in the best evidence-informed research and practice, and an expert mentor will support your development throughout. You will participate in five intensive training and practice workshops, each curated and hosted by one of our lead partner schools. We see these as the pillars of our programme and will afford you unique opportunities to hone your craft.

We will encourage you to be a curious and reflective learner. Not only will you learn 'what' and 'how' to teach effectively but we will also encourage you to consider the 'why'. You will have ample opportunities to develop, practice and critique your skills and talents.

Our vibrant learning environment provides a rich opportunity for personal and professional growth, and requires hard work, rigour and resilience. Our supportive team, who will know you well, will be onside throughout, sharing in both the challenges and successes. We will support you to manage your wellbeing and help you to thrive in your future teaching posts.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Mulberry College of Teaching and learning more about you and your aspirations.



**Join the next generation of passionate and exceptional secondary specialist teachers who:**

- are firmly committed to social justice and our core belief that each and every student from any background is entitled to a high-quality education;
- want to inspire creativity, leadership and a life-long love of learning in all students and embody this in their own teaching;
- want to unlock the transformative power of their subject for all students, regardless of their starting point.

**“I like English because you can’t get the answer wrong but you can always improve it. You get to be creative and look at things from different angles and perspectives. In English, you get to look through the eyes of a character and see in a new way.”**

Fariya – Year 8 student

**What you can expect from our strong and long-standing partnership of Trust schools and local secondary schools in East London:**

- You will gain an invaluable opportunity to learn from professionals who are exceptional subject specialists in inclusive education.
- In turn, you will develop the subject knowledge and understanding, as well as skills and attributes, required to become a successful inclusive teacher, not just here but in any vibrant inner-city context worldwide.
- You will be immersed in school-based training that is both engaging and stimulating – the best way to prepare anyone for the rigours and joy of teaching.
- You will have opportunities to teach in five different schools within our partnership, exposing you to a range of practice and a breadth of expertise.



# Beyond the classroom

You will benefit from the unique and trailblazing partnerships and extensive enrichment opportunities provided to both staff and students in our partner schools. Here are just some examples of our commitment to inclusive and aspirational education:

- **Mulberry Arts Creative Changemakers:** an extensive arts provision spanning theatre, dance, music, film, conferences and training for employment in the creative industries. As well as being embedded within school life, we celebrate and elevate the arts by participating in high profile projects such as the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.
- **Mulberry Production Arts Academy:** in partnership with the National Theatre and Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, we offer students training in the field of production and technical arts, providing a specialist pipeline for students to develop their career aspirations in this industry.
- **Mulberry STEM Academy:** a supplementary school running on Saturdays and holidays for students aged 5–18, with an alumni programme. It is sponsored by Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd and aims to improve diversity, equity and inclusion in this industry by providing a pathway for talented students from local schools.
- **Reconnect London:** the Mulberry Schools Trust co-founded this research and development centre with Dunraven Educational Trust during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. Reconnect London is a schools-led organisation that seeks to build its own knowledge base about disadvantage, community and education, and draws on the collective expertise and innovative work of its members to improve the life chances of all students.
- **Mulberry Schools Foundation:** a charity which raises funding to provide exceptional opportunities for students and their families facing disadvantage, ranging from travel bursaries to large scale international projects like **Global Girl Leading**.



- **East London Teaching School Hub:** led by the Mulberry Schools Trust, the hub offers professional development at every career stage for Hackney and Tower Hamlets teachers. You'll be joining a large professional learning community of practice.
- **Careers enrichment at George Green's School:** George Green's School has created a model for exceptional career opportunities embedded in its curriculum that aims to raise students' aspirations, supporting them in whatever they decide to pursue. Students have the chance to participate in business mentoring workshops, aspirational careers talks, work experience programmes, Oxbridge University visits, one-to-one careers guidance, mock interviews and CV support.
- **Careers enrichment at St Paul's Way Trust School:** the school's Lead Partner, Queen Mary University of London, has been instrumental in project managing its Scientific Research Centre and helping to design an exceptional careers and higher education programme.
- **Oaklands School – an international school:** Oaklands is accredited by the British Council as an international school and has received delegations from Scandinavia, Austria, Germany and Saudi Arabia as part of its professional development network.
- **Wapping High School partnerships:** Wapping High is proud to work in partnership with a range of organisations to enhance the opportunities for its learners and staff. For example, it is currently participating in the Mandarin Excellence Programme at the UCL Institute of Education and works closely with many other universities and schools locally and internationally.



**“Teaching English is all about giving students a voice. As English teachers, we hold the privileged position of demonstrating the immense power of words. Through language, we empower students to articulate their thoughts, ignite change, and shape their world. It is through our guidance that they discover the transformative impact of their own voices.”**

Partner school teacher

# Course details

**Our programme is underpinned by the principle of learning about practice in and from exceptional practice.**

The Mulberry College of Teaching is a school-based initial teacher education provider working with a strong partnership of local secondary schools in East London. This means we can offer a richly integrated hub-school programme to ensure that you are immersed in the best evidence-informed research and practice in schools, while you develop your own teaching incrementally with expert mentor support.

Our programme is as ambitious for you as the pupils we serve.

- You will develop a deep foundation in subject-specific teaching (60 per cent of hub-based sessions are subject-specific, led by experienced expert subject practitioners).
- You will be immersed in a home school from Day 1, joining a professional community of expert colleagues to learn about all aspects of school life.
- You will critically engage with research through a PGCE qualification with Sheffield Hallam University, exceeding the compulsory core content framework.

**Sheffield  
Hallam  
University**  
Knowledge Applied

- You will develop your practice as an inclusive teacher to support all students in our urban context. Our enhanced professional studies programme will help you deepen your understanding of the factors which affect learners and learning. This includes teenage mental health, psychological development and inequalities.
- You will spend part of most weeks in your home school placement and connect with other beginning teachers in hub-based sessions. This will enable you to make sense of key ideas and approaches in practice over time. You will be part of a supportive peer community.
- Your exposure to teaching will be incremental as you build confidence and expertise. At first you may take responsibility for short parts of lessons and gradually build towards teaching an 80 per cent timetable to support your transition to your first full teaching timetable after you qualify.
- An expert experienced teacher will offer you personalised support every week through mentoring.
- You will have the opportunity to teach in at least five different schools within the partnership, through the Intensive Training and Practice pillars and complementary placement, exposing you to a variety of settings and drawing on the wide range of expertise within our partnership community.



# Programme overview

The programme has been carefully curated, integrating a range of learning approaches through five key themes:

	Hub-based			School-based		Independent study	
Theme	 Professional	 Curriculum (e.g. English secondary)	 Intensive Training and Practice*	 Professional	 Practice	 Asynchronous Professional	 Independent Study
Teachers as Transformers (Weeks 1-2)	Transforming lives and content; transforming into teachers	The English curriculum, policy, practice, knowledge and concepts; English in diverse urban contexts	How can I tell them what to do? Behaviour routines; voice and instructions	Planned and agreed school-based programme drawing on asynchronous professional studies, curriculum and professional programmes and areas of focus identified by the school	Home-school placement - with gradual increase in solo-teaching opportunities	Healthy and safe learners	Module 1 (PGCE) Reflecting on Professional Practice and Development. 5000-word assignment due in January
Planning for Progress (Weeks 3-7)	Planning backwards, learning goals, schemata	Foundations: language, literature, speaking and listening, genre	How can I use routines to maximise learning?				
Activating and assessing thinking (Weeks 8-13)	Assessment, feedback, metacognition	Text based work: novels, poetry, Shakespeare Assessment in English	How do I activate thinking hard and keep remembering easy through questioning?				
Equity and Expectations (Weeks 14-25)	Inclusive pedagogies and adaptive teaching	Diversity in the English Curriculum; grammar and meta-language; film and image; creativity, drama	How does knowing my pupils help me ensure success for all learners?				
Beyond boundaries (Weeks 26-37)	Workload and wellbeing Transition to ECT		How do I scaffold independent practice in complex tasks?				
				Complementary placement: role of schools in the lives of communities; adaptive teaching	Included learners	Module 2 (PGCE) Exploring and Developing Professional Practice (Lesson Study). 5000-word assignment due in May	
				Intensive Practice (80%)	Extending learning		

\*Intensive Training and Practice topics may be subject to minor change

# Entry requirements

## First degree

A minimum of a lower second-class (2:2) UK bachelor's degree or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard in the subject you are training to teach: e.g for English, an English-related subject, including Drama. Other subjects may be considered if you have an A level or equivalent qualification and a suitable breadth and depth of subject knowledge.

Alternatively, a degree or qualification obtained outside the UK, which has been verified by the [UK National Information Centre](#) for the recognition of international qualifications and skills (UK ENIC). We will need to see a statement of comparability at the interview stage.

## A levels

If your degree subject is not in a relevant field, an A level qualification, or equivalent, in the subject you want to train to teach in will be required.

## GCSEs

English Language at grade C/4 and above and mathematics grade C/4 and above. We do not accept qualifications in 'applied' or 'additional' GCSE subjects.

## School experience

We recommend that you aim to gain some experience in a classroom prior to interview but this is not essential.

## Skills tests

Trainees will be assured against a set of fundamental mathematics and English skills by the end of their teacher training.

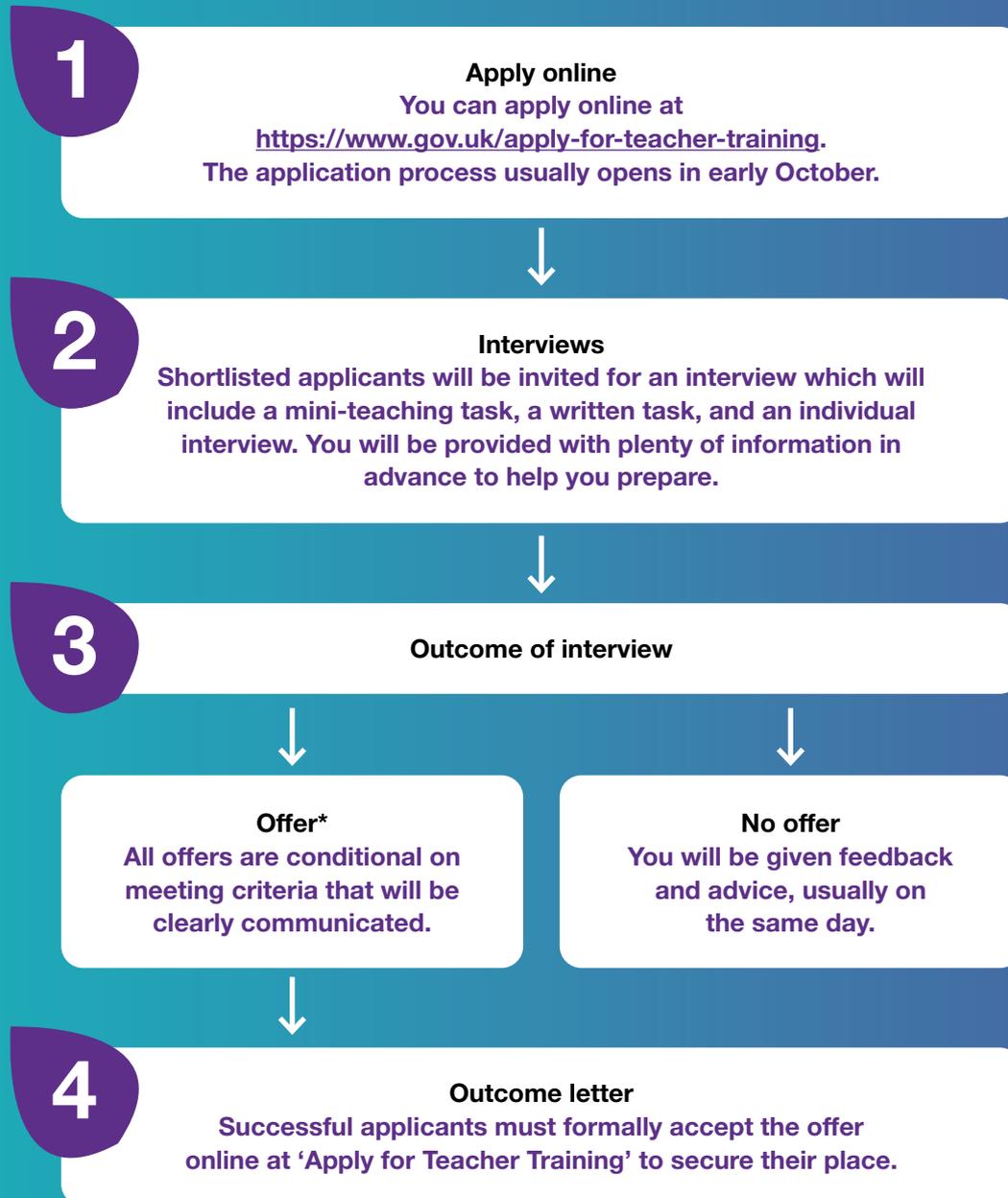
## Relevant experience and background

Applicants whose degree qualifications are lower than 2:2 may be considered if they can demonstrate an appropriate academic background at master's level and above and/or significant postgraduate experience in the relevant field.

**Subject Knowledge Enhancement:** If you need to improve your subject knowledge, you may be asked to complete a subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) course. We will direct you to our recommended provider(s).



# Recruitment process



\* All offers conditional on:

- satisfactory references
- satisfactory safeguarding checks including an enhanced DBS check
- satisfactory 'fit for post' health check
- original qualification certificates
- proof of address, photo ID
- Degree, at appropriate classification
- A standard equivalent to a GCSE grade 5 in English and mathematics
- Evidence of satisfactory literacy skills via a written task at interview
- Evidence of immigration status (if applicable)

# Teach in the city

## Prime location

Our partner schools are largely based in Tower Hamlets, the epicentre of a rejuvenated East London. With easy access to Shoreditch's creative hub and bustling nightlife, Stratford's shopping and sporting facilities, Greenwich's heritage and the natural beauty of Epping Forest, it is the ideal place for a beginner teacher to learn their trade while exploring and enjoying everything East London has to offer.

## A quality education

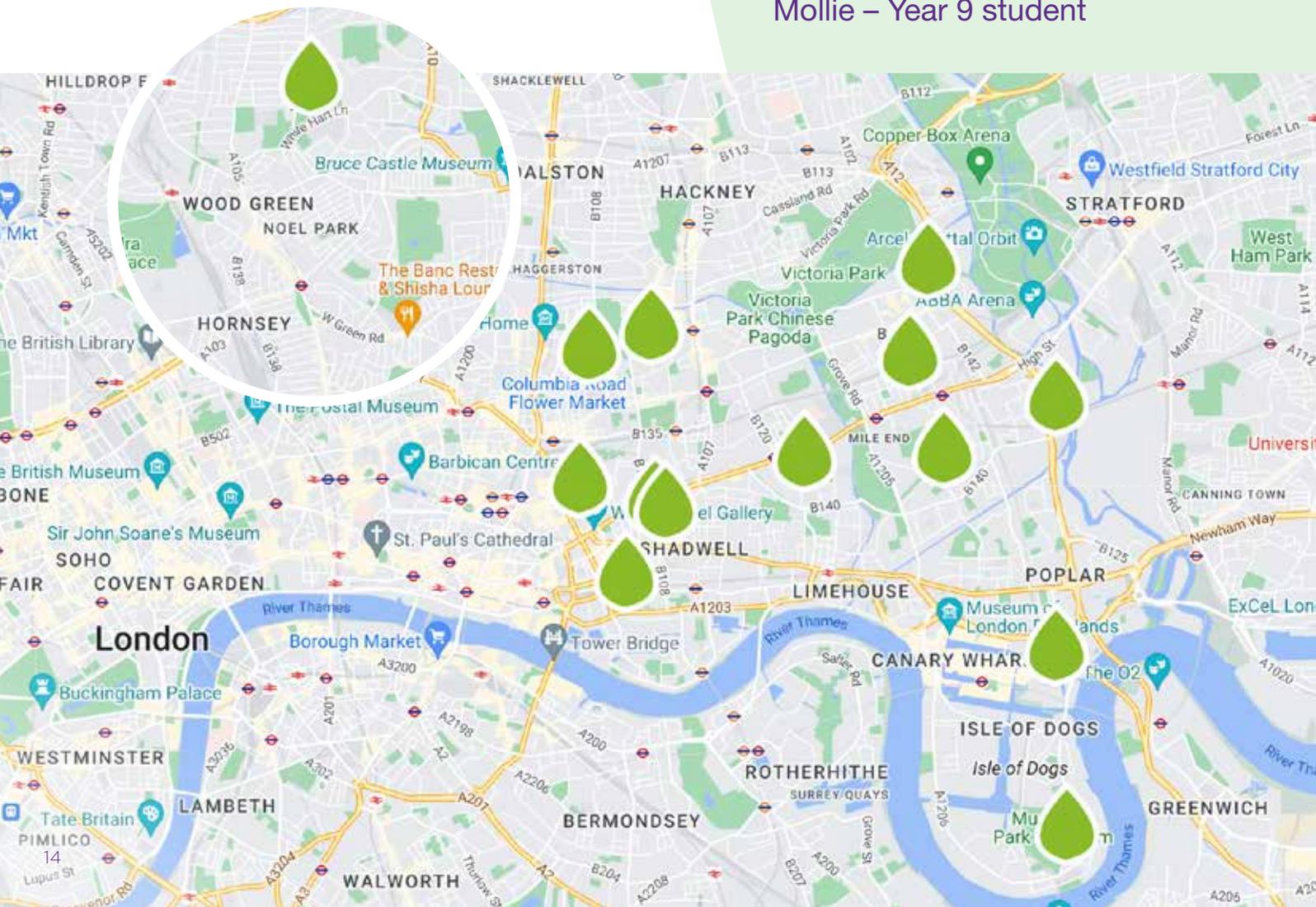
Successful applicants will experience a dynamic and innovative environment, learning in some of Tower Hamlet's best schools and alongside some of the country's best practitioners. You will develop the skills and qualities required to transition into the perfect teaching role.

## A moral imperative

Our collective desire for social justice drives us to deliver the best opportunities for those graduates who share our moral principle that, by delivering life changing education, we can transform the lives of those young people who rely on us.

**"I love English because it takes your mind off things. It calms me down if I am having a bad day. I like my English lessons because my teacher makes them really fun and interesting."**

Mollie – Year 9 student



# Our partner schools

**Our long-standing partnership of local schools works together in the best interest of students in East London. We have a common commitment to ensuring excellent outcomes for the students we serve and that everyone on our programme has the best learning experience. We take a collegiate approach, seeking opportunities to work together to achieve these goals.**

**Lead Partner schools** play an active role in your training programme. They are involved in writing and leading the curriculum, facilitating Intensive Training and Practices (ITaPs) and, most importantly, offer high quality school placements and expert mentoring.

Representatives from Lead Partner schools are active members of MCoT's Partnership Group and advise on strategic and operational decisions.

**Partner Placement schools** offer placements for programme participants and contribute to the enhanced professional studies programme we offer.

## Mulberry Schools Trust schools:

- Mulberry School for Girls
- Mulberry University Technical College
- Mulberry Academy Shoreditch
- Mulberry Stepney Green Maths, Computing and Science College
- Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary
- Mulberry Academy Woodside
- Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary
- Mulberry Academy London Dock

## Local secondary schools:

- Bow School
- Central Foundation Girls' School
- George Green's School
- London East Alternative Provision
- Oaklands School
- St Paul's Way Trust School
- Wapping High School

**“I had the opportunity to work with schools that aim to deliver an exceptional educational experience for their students but who are also clear about the specific needs, challenges and issues facing their pupils. Having worked previously in urban policy and community development I wanted to continue to learn about social issues and gain a deeper understanding of how they could be tackled through education.”**

Chloe – trainee teacher

# Our team

You will be supported by a range of colleagues, drawing on a breadth of professional expertise within your home school and in the central programme hub.

## Home school colleagues

**Mentor** – An experienced expert practitioner who will meet you every week to offer personalised support and development. They will get to know you and your teaching practice really well over the year.

### **Professional Mentor/Lead Mentor** –

A senior leader within the school who will coordinate the programme of learning for all beginning teachers at the school. They will have oversight of the one-to-one mentoring and lead the school-based programme of professional studies.

## PGCE Tutor

An experienced expert practitioner - A Sheffield Hallam University PGCE tutor will visit the hub to teach the PGCE modules. MCoT beginning teachers also have full access to SHU's online resources and access to their educational support services.

## Hub colleagues

**Curriculum Tutor/s** – A specialist in your subject will lead the curriculum programme, coordinating your hub-based programme and school-based curriculum activities. You will also have a nominated 'tutor' who will regularly spend time with you to review your progress towards Qualified Teacher Status. They will observe your practice in school, alongside your school-based colleagues.

**Director of MCoT** – As the overall leader of the programme, the Director of MCoT will track your progress and work with all your colleagues to ensure you have all the support you need to thrive on the programme and beyond. They will listen to your feedback on your experience of the programme to inform its ongoing development.





## Diversity, equity and inclusion

**The Mulberry College of Teaching, part of the Mulberry Schools Trust, is committed to providing a training and educational environment which recognises and celebrates diversity and removes barriers to individuals realising their full potential.**

We are dedicated to equity and valuing diversity. We pride ourselves on being a diverse, inclusive and welcoming organisation and we aim to create a workforce which reflects the community we serve. We are respectful of difference and the diversity in our workforce. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and particularly welcome applications from candidates from British ethnic minority and other global majority groups.

**“As an inner-city London English teacher with roots in the area, I have been privileged to work with, train and teach a diverse multitude of students and staff to feel empowered, independent and to lead.”**

Jordan – English teacher  
(Mulberry Academy Woodside)



**“As a member of the English department, I have developed my practice through the various opportunities available to me. The department is incredibly collaborative and supportive and makes the job such a joy. ”**

Ayesha – initial teacher education mentor

# Funding

Trainees pay tuition fees of £9,535.

You may be eligible for a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan to help with living costs.

In addition, UK citizens may be eligible for a bursary of £5,000.

## For more information on funding:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-support/scholarships-and-bursaries>

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-support/tuition-fee-and-maintenance-loans>



Mulberry College of Teaching  
Richard Street  
Commercial Road  
London | E1 2JP

☎ 020 7791 7202

✉ [info@mulberrycollegeofteaching.org](mailto:info@mulberrycollegeofteaching.org)

🌐 [www.mulberrycollegeofteaching.org](http://www.mulberrycollegeofteaching.org)



Part of the

Mulberry  
Schools Trust