

# The life of a trainee teacher

## by Kelly Wickham, Bosco Teacher Training

The idea of giving up a career you know inside out, retraining and starting over is a daunting thought. But it's also exciting. When I was growing up, I had two career ideas – teaching and journalism. After I left school and earned a bit of money, I went to college and trained in journalism. By the age of 30, I was Chief Reporter of two local newspapers. And then covid-19 hit and the newspapers I poured my heart into, stopped printing.

I was sure I was too old to retrain in a new career, particularly when I hadn't got all the correct qualifications, yet something niggled at me, telling me Covid was the call from fate I needed to do this.

By Easter 2021, I was working as a Cover Supervisor at the very high school I went to, while studying for an English Literature and Creative Writing degree with the Open University. The initial prospect of walking into a room full of teenagers and being in charge filled me with imposter syndrome and I doubted myself, not for the first time.

Signing up for Teacher Training was the next step in my journey and after passing an interview at a new school, I attended an induction in Surrey where I got to meet my fellow trainees for the year. We were a real mixture of people from early fifties to early twenties, but all excited, passionate and eager to learn the new skills we needed to pass.

I was fortunate to train on a salaried position at my school which meant I was a paid-up member of staff and had my own timetable from the first day. I also opted to study for my PGCE at the same time which was no easy feat but definitely worth the extra effort.

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The support and help I received while I was training was incredible. The deadlines for assignments and lesson observations were all worked out to give us the most time and optimum support without feeling overwhelmed or stressed. No question was ever considered too simple or silly and Graham, our SCITT Lead, was always there when we needed help, encouragement or assistance. One