**PGCE Preparation Advice**

**Advice from the cohort of student teachers:**

* Get your subject knowledge up to scratch before you start because you won’t have time once you’re in school.
* Do not buy so many books, you will turn to internet sources more often and they will linger in dust. Use the YSJ library & google scholar.
* As for resources for placement, do not buy too much the school provides many that you have access too.
* Don’t worry about not having any experience in school, everyone starts on the same level.
* A printer is something many other cohorts said they would not use, I found it helpful for any prep so that when you get into school it is literally just a matter of making copies.
* ‘Teacher twitter’ #edutwitter is a great place to socialise with other teachers as the support you receive is next to none. Create a page before you start and see if you can come across people on the same course/same uni.
* Explore twinkl.co.uk – this is like a candy shop for lesson planning and has so many adaptable resources for when you are on placement.
* The NEU is free to join as a trainee and offers loads of CPD courses over summer. It won’t make much sense now, but you will use the information and tips once you are in school.
* Read children’s books. An arsenal of books to use as examples or for class story is worth its weight in gold.
* Sept – December you have more time. Use this effectively. Start sorting evidence from placement as soon as you can. Work on the essay etc. March onwards things really go into fast forward. Remember to spend time with family and friends. Good mental health is so important through this degree, take care of it.
* If you have any placement concerns at all don’t be scared to voice them. As soon as you speak to your mentor, link tutor or academic tutor things will improve. Don’t suffer in silence.
* It’s not always realistic to create all your lesson resources from scratch – use resources from lectures, seminars and the internet. You don’t need to reinvent the wheel.
* When planning your time, plan in breaks because you won’t take them otherwise.
* There is always more you can do, be realistic with your expectations and prioritise what is important.
* Your school doesn’t expect you to be perfect. They just want to see you listening and getting better.
* If you are feeling down on yourself, look back and see how far you have come. You will be amazed.