

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Early Career Teachers



In Spotlight On, we catch up with our Early Career Teachers (ECTs) as they progress through the early stages of their career with us!

This time, we catch up with Will Raddings, Teacher of History at Outwood Grange Academy!

What first made you want to become a teacher?

I wanted to become a teacher so that I could make a positive difference in young people's lives.

How are you finding teaching so far?

I am loving it. I'm a little late to teaching having previously spent ten years as a salesperson but being able to spend every day talking about history to young people is great!

How has your teacher training set you up for your first year as a teacher?

I completed my training year on a School Direct programme, which allowed me to spend the majority of my time in the classroom on my own, learning 'hands-on' so to speak. This has really given me confidence going into my ECT years.

"A positive classroom environment can make all the difference"

What are your learnings so far?

I have learnt that enjoying it is half the battle. A positive classroom environment can make all the difference and if your students can tell you're enjoying it, they're more likely to buy into your lessons as well.

Could you share any tips/advice for other ECTs or trainee teachers?

My advice would be to try not to get overwhelmed by everything. There's a lot to do and it can sometimes feel like an impossible task to work through everything but just take a step back, breathe and prioritise.

"The support from the Outwood Family has been fantastic."

How have you felt supported so far by the Outwood Family?

The support from the Outwood Family has been fantastic. I'm lucky to be part of a great History department at Outwood Grange Academy, and the whole school has been amazing. We welcomed our daughter into the world last year, 6 weeks into my training, and everyone has been so supportive. It's made my career change so positive and really made me feel like part of the team!