Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

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Dear colleague,

I am writing to welcome you to the initial teacher training (ITT) recruitment cycle for 2020, and to tell you about some of the ways that we plan to support you to attract the brightest and best possible candidates to train to become teachers.

First, I want to thank you for your efforts and commitment to recruitment for ITT2019. I know that in an increasingly competitive job market, where candidates have multiple career choices available to them, the hard work you do to attract and train the right people is of crucial importance.

In recruiting for ITT2020, I am committed to building on the progress made so far to ensure that those who want to train can find a course which is right for them. You have maximum flexibility to recruit to all postgraduate ITT courses (except PE fee-funded) for ITT2020, and I would ask you to maximise recruitment to courses with significant interest.

We recently announced that we will continue to offer tax-free bursaries of up to £26,000 for trainees, and our prestigious scholarship schemes will continue in partnership with professional bodies. We are expanding the phased bursary to Physics, Chemistry and Modern Foreign Languages by offering early-career payments totalling £6,000 (or £9,000 in high-need areas) to trainees in these subjects, once they enter teaching. Additionally, we are increasing the bursary for Design and Technology, as well as introducing new bursaries for Art and Design and Business Studies. I believe that these incentives will help to attract and retain good teachers to the profession, and would ask you to promote them to candidates.

I am also pleased to confirm that we will continue to support recruitment throughout ITT2020 with our national, award-winning advertising campaign, *Every Lesson Shapes a Life*. We are planning to advertise at four points during the year using TV, video on demand, cinema, radio, press and social media. The first of these advertising campaigns is now live, and will run until the end of October. Further marketing activity is planned for January, March-April and June-July 2020.

I also highly recommend that you promote the services of our Teacher Training Advisers (TTAs), who provide one-to-one support to candidates, and help them to navigate their journey to ITT. In ITT2019 alone they supported over 20,000 prospective candidates with their applications.

For ITT2020, TTAs will offer support to all graduates wishing to train to teach in any subject. They will also assist candidates up to two years away from applying, including first and second-year undergraduate students, to help them prepare for teacher training in the future.

Candidates can contact the team via telephone on 0800 389 2500, or register on the Get into Teaching website.

I want to continue to work with you to simplify the process of becoming a teacher by removing any potential barriers to ITT, and my officials have been working on ways of supporting ITT recruitment as effectively as possible.

For example, the professional skills tests will be replaced with a new provider-led assurance of fundamental English and Mathematics from 1 April 2020. This means that candidates who start a course on or after this date will not be required to pass the tests in order to train to teach and be recommended for the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Candidates who start courses before 1 April 2020, including those on Assessment Only, Apprenticeship or EYTS routes, as well as legacy cases where QTS has been deferred for skills tests, will still be able to take the tests until 31 March 2020**.** My officials will write to you later this month regarding the provision for this.

In addition, the DfE Find service has now been running for a full cycle. Since launch, it has had more than 640,000 users, and we have received positive feedback from both candidates and providers alike. We are now building on this success, and will start piloting its sister service, DfE Apply, later this autumn. You can find further information about DfE Apply in our Q&A document. Once live, this will greatly simplify the process of applying to become a teacher, making it quicker for candidates and allowing greater flexibility.

Again, I thank you for your efforts over the last year. I look forward to working with you to continue to train high-quality candidates who go on to become successful teachers, to ensure that children in all schools receive the great education they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

