

History - Newly Qualified Teacher

# Sarah Crouch

**What has been the best part of your first year as a teacher?**

The highlight of my year has been becoming a form tutor to my own Year 7 group. They are a delightful group that have presented challenges but have enabled me to understand how vital it is to form bonds with your students. The ethos of my school is to build relationships and I feel I have truly achieved this with my form class.

**What has been the most challenging?**

Most challenging of all has probably been time management/dealing with responsibilities. Taking on several roles in school has been difficult, such as teaching more than one subject, becoming a form tutor and running a club. This has often left me pushed for time but this does become more manageable as the year progresses.

**How do you feel that the Shotton Hall SCITT prepared you for teaching?**

I think Shotton SCITT best prepared me to be reflective. Emphasis was regularly put on being able to reflect and improve practice throughout our training, and so far, this has proved to be one of the most useful skills I have obtained from my teacher training.

**What kind of support have you received from Shotton Hall SCITT as an NQT?**

Shotton Hall SCITT regularly provides opportunities to share practice by attending teach meets. I have also attended behaviour management and stress management training days at Shotton Hall as an NQT. They also regularly contact NQTs to make sure they are aware that support is available if it is needed.

**What advice would you give to people approaching the end of their training year?**

I would advise trainees to take a break over the summer to prepare themselves for the busy year ahead. They should try not to become too worried or nervous (easier said than done I know!) as getting caught up in planning ahead in preparation is great, but you may end up changing everything anyway to suit your classes! Keep your training files as they have tons of resources and great lesson ideas inside, which can prove very useful when planning. Check the topics your school teaches (particularly GCSE) and make sure you learn about that topic if you have not studied it before. This will save you hours of time when planning.

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