



'I DARE to be the best'

**FIND OUT HOW
GRADUATES
HAVE GAINED INVALUABLE
EXPERIENCE AND
EMPLOYMENT
AT MAYPOLE PRIMARY
SCHOOL AS
GRADUATE TUTORS &
SCHOOLS DIRECT
STUDENTS**

Graduates'

views

Leah's story

After graduating from university, finding a job that would open up career prospects was a challenging task. Having had no experience working with children in an education setting, finding a role within an education setting seemed impossible to begin with. However, the Graduate Tutor position at Maypole Primary School provided an excellent platform for valuable experience within a school. I quickly became familiar with the fast paced atmosphere of school life; this promoted my desire and passion to follow a career in teaching. As part of my role as Graduate Tutor, I was able to work alongside class teachers, support learning in lessons and deliver 1:1 and group interventions to pupils with a range of abilities. This gave me incredible insight into the learning experience of pupils in the classroom which in turn prepared me for my QTS training. Having not had the experience as a Graduate Tutor, I imagine I would have found the Schools Direct Salaried course daunting at first. However, the Schools Direct course was perfect: I was able to be in school, teach whilst developing my theory and practice through observations and take on more and more class and school responsibilities as the year progressed. Furthermore, the support I received from the staff and SLT at Maypole throughout my year as Graduate Tutor and then Schools Direct Teacher was second to none. Without the support from the school, I would not have excelled through the course and be as prepared for my NQT year as I am.

Bethan's story

When beginning a career in Education it can seem daunting finding a role suited to you and your career aspirations. It is made even more difficult when you have little experience in schools and most roles seek applicants with plenty of experience. I found the role of Graduate Tutor was ideal for me, as it gave me an opportunity to work in a school for the first time and observe what a career in Education would be like for me. I was able to work alongside a class teacher to gain useful experience that I could carry with me throughout my career. I was given responsibilities different to those of a Learning Support Assistant and this meant that I was able to teach individuals and small groups to see if it was something I wanted to pursue further. I believe being a Graduate Tutor was valuable experience that shaped my aspirations to becoming a teacher. Had I taken a different role elsewhere I may not have been pushed to realise my dreams sooner. Schools Direct was the perfect course for me as I was able to learn whilst teaching which I so love to do. When I look back on my initial teacher training I can see a clear development from starting out with no experience as a Graduate Tutor to passing the Schools Direct Salaried course within 7 months. The role of Graduate Tutor and Schools Direct Trainee teacher go hand in hand, the roles fed into each other and I felt each step up was made easier by the observations completed and experience gained in the previous role, graduate tutor to trainee and trainee to NQT.



Pav's story

Before starting at Maypole Primary School, I had to decide whether to apply for a learning support assistant role or a graduate tutor role. I read the job description and quickly found the graduate tutor role was ideal for me. It was what I had been looking for and I am extremely pleased with the choice I made. Being a graduate tutor allows you to focus on the teaching small groups, it gives you the hands on experience you need. This was the perfect route into teaching and I highly advise those looking to pursue a career in teaching to consider the route of a graduate tutor.

Working at Maypole Primary School as a graduate tutor really helped me to progress incredibly throughout my training year. I started as a graduate tutor and, towards the end of the academic year, I was given the opportunity to teach core subjects to groups of children. I completed interventions, taught lessons, planned computing and PE lessons with support. With support, I learnt how to mark according to the schools' policy and I adapted lessons according to individual children's needs. My school gave me an opportunity to achieve my career goals; they have given me the confidence needed to carry out this job. I have developed professionally as a trainee and as an individual. I have built amazing relationships with both the pupils and the staff at Maypole Primary School, which makes my job exciting and worthwhile.

The tremendous amount of support I have received from the team at Maypole Primary School has been phenomenal. The management team have supported me throughout the training year when I was faced with difficult personal circumstances. The level of support provided has been of an outstanding standard, which has led me onto receiving outstanding grades throughout my observations.

I would thoroughly recommend anyone wanting to go into teaching to gain as much experience as they can. I would advise someone to work as a graduate tutor to gain further experience as it allows you to get to know the school, children, staff and policies before starting the training year. This enabled me to have the head start I needed to successfully complete the training year.





The EXPERIENCE at Maypole

Graduate Tutors, appointed by Maypole Primary School, have good honours' degrees and aspire to become teachers or educational psychologist or to gain experience working with young people.

After their Graduate Tutor year, Bethan, Leah and Pav were all appointed by the school as salaried School Direct Teachers, and they are all now employed as Teachers at Maypole. Three of our Graduate Tutors working in the school, in the last academic year, are now employed as School Direct Teachers at Maypole.

Graduate Tutors work within year groups and provide targeted interventions, focusing on plugging gaps in learning for pupils at risk of underachievement. Graduate Tutors support pupils in class and in small group or 1:1 tuition tailored directly to pupils' gaps, before and after school. Some graduates also run clubs.

Graduate Tutors attend Professional Develop Meetings with teachers and additional training is provided as needed. They work alongside teachers, becoming familiar with planning and marking, school policies and expectations. They are also provided support to gain places on ITT courses, if they decide they want to become teachers.