

SCHOOLS: Teachers of tomorrow are being drawn

into the profession from an increasingly diverse range of pasts and

Trainees with new passion for life in classroom

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A RUSSIAN ice skater, a former waitress, an exercise therapist and a retired police officer are among the latest batch of trainee teachers learning their new craft in mid-Essex schools.

The quartet are typical of the assortment of people applying to the Mid Essex Initial Teacher Training Consortium, set up by a group of secondary schools.

Each year the schools aim to recruit between 40 and 50 trainees

across two schemes. The number of places for a particular subject changes each year to meet the demands of the schools.

Lesley Hollingsworth, tutor of the School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) course, said: "The Government is very keen to train teachers in a more school-based setting, learning from good-quality teachers, so this is what we have been doing.

"We are based at Shenfield High School and work with 12 consortium schools across the county. Trainee teachers gain a great start to their careers in good-quality local schools and often remain in these schools once qualified."

Increasingly the consortium is receiving applications from older people, some in their fifties, and so offers two routes to becoming a newly-qualified teacher, which both take one year.

Salary

The Graduate Teacher Programme offers a salary while training, whereas the SCITT offers a high level of mentor support and leads to a postgraduate certificate in education.

Subjects most in demand are maths, science and modern foreign languages (MFL). The Government recently is proposing changes to how high-quality candidates are recruited.

Lesley said: "Schools are really keen to encourage pupils in maths, physics and chemistry but have always found it hard to attract graduates of these subjects into teaching. From September 2012, graduates in these subjects with first-class degrees will be entitled to a £20,000 bursary.

"While maths and the sciences have been a long-running issue, the latest subject in high demand is MFL. The new English Baccalaureate encourages pupils to take a language for GCSE, so an increase in the need for teachers is expected."

Why it is essential to be aware of

TRAINEE teachers at Shenfield High School are being taught about their responsibilities when it comes to social media.

As part of their training, they have sessions discussing the use of Facebook and Twitter with regard to child protection and maintaining their personal reputations.

Tutor Judith Underwood has just been on a course which showed her how vital it was to



BACK IN THE CLASSROOM: Trainee teachers on the School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) course based at Shenfield High School

CASE STUDY

Liz finds she has a language advantage



LANGUAGES: Liz Trotter

A FORMER exercise therapist who is fluent in French and Italian believes she has found her dream job.

Liz Trotter, 26, is training via the SCITT course at Noley High School in Braintree. Her subject, modern foreign languages, is expected to be particularly in demand as the Government is expected to revert to making studying a language at GCSE compulsory.

The 26-year-old from London followed a gap year working in a bank by taking a degree in history and French at Surrey University.

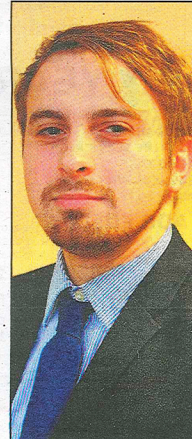
She said: "When I finished my course I was offered a job in a physio gym which had referrals from the NHS so I took that and I really enjoyed it and stayed there for two years.



every post they make. We advise our trainees to keep the controls on their accounts very tight. "We tell them to not put anything on Facebook unless they are quite happy to have it broadcast to the world at large. "In the case of Twitter, as has

CASE STUDY

The figures add up for ice skater's new career



INTERACTION: Kiril Teslia

EXPERT skater Kiril Teslia was ranked number three in the UK when he was a teenager. Having proved he can cut it on the ice, he is now showing he is a class act when it comes to teaching maths in Billericay.

The 25-year-old moved from his homeland of Russia to Chelmsford just over a decade ago after his father, Victor, landed a job at Riverside as a skating coach. It was there that Kiril's love for passing on his knowledge to others was secured.

He said: "I helped my father during school holidays teaching children to skate and really enjoyed it. Several years later I had a job in Jessops in Chelmsford High Street, where I loved talking to customers about cameras and explaining how they worked.

the pitfalls of social networking



been proved, you never quite know how you are going to be picked up and portrayed. "Teachers have to be careful of what they say about their private lives whether we agree with that or not. "We tell students to keep their

jobs I took all seemed to point me in the direction of teaching."

Kiril, who has been skating since the age of five, took part in many competitions from a young age and was ranked third in Britain for his age as a teenager. The former Rainsford School pupil had a variety of jobs after leaving Leeds University, where he did a maths degree, including being a freelance photographer and music technician.

Feeling the need to start a long-term career, he successfully applied to the Graduate Teaching Programme, and is based at the Mayflower School in Billericay.

Kiril said: "The course was ideal for me as I did not fancy going back to studying full-time. I really wanted to get in and learn on the job. That was my motivation.

"I learn best when I am actually doing it rather than reading about it." He spends four days a week in the school and one day a week learning teaching theory.

He said: "It's fantastic. There is a lot of paperwork, as you have to gather a lot of evidence of what you have done, so it takes up a lot of your time.

"I really like the curriculum - there are no dry areas, and I'm really enjoying teaching it.

CASE STUDY

Charlotte is taking a scientific approach

A LOVE of animals and a job as a waitress combined to lead a young Braintree woman towards a career in teaching science.

Part of her role during the eight years Charlotte Kendall worked at Braintree Freeport's Pizza Express involved helping out with school visits when classes would come in to make pizzas. She enjoyed these so much it made her think about returning to the classroom.

Charlotte spent five years at Writtle College, where she began with a diploma and progressed to an honours degree in animal care.

Delight

She said: "After finishing my degree I worked at the restaurant full-time to earn some cash.

"Watching the pupils come in and see their delight in making the pizzas and learning about different foods made me consider teaching."

Hylands School was the obvious choice for Charlotte to be based during her SCITT course as it has its own farm