

# A new challenge, a new opportunity

Our interactive guide to primary and secondary teacher training in Newcastle and Durham



Growing together



Prince Bishops  
Teaching School Alliance

# Welcome

On behalf of everyone associated with Prince Bishops Teaching School Alliance (PBTSA) we're delighted to welcome you to our Initial Teacher Training programme.

Teaching is one of the most rewarding careers available. It is challenging, but the sheer joy of helping young people grow and develop their skills means it's a career like no other.

We know the world is changing; new subjects, new expectations, new ways of working all mean we need teachers who relish the opportunity to be innovative. That's why teaching is looking for well-qualified, talented, innovative individuals. Whether you're a recent graduate or someone changing careers if you think teaching, primary or secondary, could be for you then we'd love to hear from you.

**"A senior classroom teacher can earn over £50K."**

So why would you choose to train with us at PBTSA? We offer a unique package. Our Initial Teacher Training (ITT) programme is a mix of classroom, theory and joint working. Both primary and secondary trainees learn their trade in a school – there's no better place to train. Surrounded by experienced teachers you'll quickly get into the groove of being a classroom teacher. You'll have your own mentor who will support you as you begin to grow your confidence.

And we're in a superb location. Wonderful scenery, only 90 minutes on the train to Edinburgh and less than three hours to London.

We provide you with support so you progress smoothly. Here at PBTSA we are very proud of our partnership approach to training new teachers. Our network of primary and secondary schools working together offers world-class ITT. Because you need to see a range of schools you'll train in at least two of these schools. For primary trainees, at least one of your placements will give you access to the Early Years Foundation Stage. We also offer specially tailored training days which ensure our trainees develop their skills quickly.

The fees for our School Direct programme are £9000. There are a range of **bursaries and scholarships**, up to £25,000, available to help cover those fees and living costs.

At the end of your time with us not only will you have gained formal Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) but you'll have developed a great network of colleagues who are ready to support you on the next phase of your exciting career.

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our courses shortly.



**Paula Thompson**  
Principal  
**Benedict Biscop Church of England Academy**



**Alan Hardie**  
Principal  
**Whiburn Church of England Academy**



# Where are our school direct training schools?

PBTSA is part of a unique partnership of primary and secondary schools working with young people from 3-19 years. You will train in at least two schools over the year so you can experience the variety of a different environment.

## Primary Schools

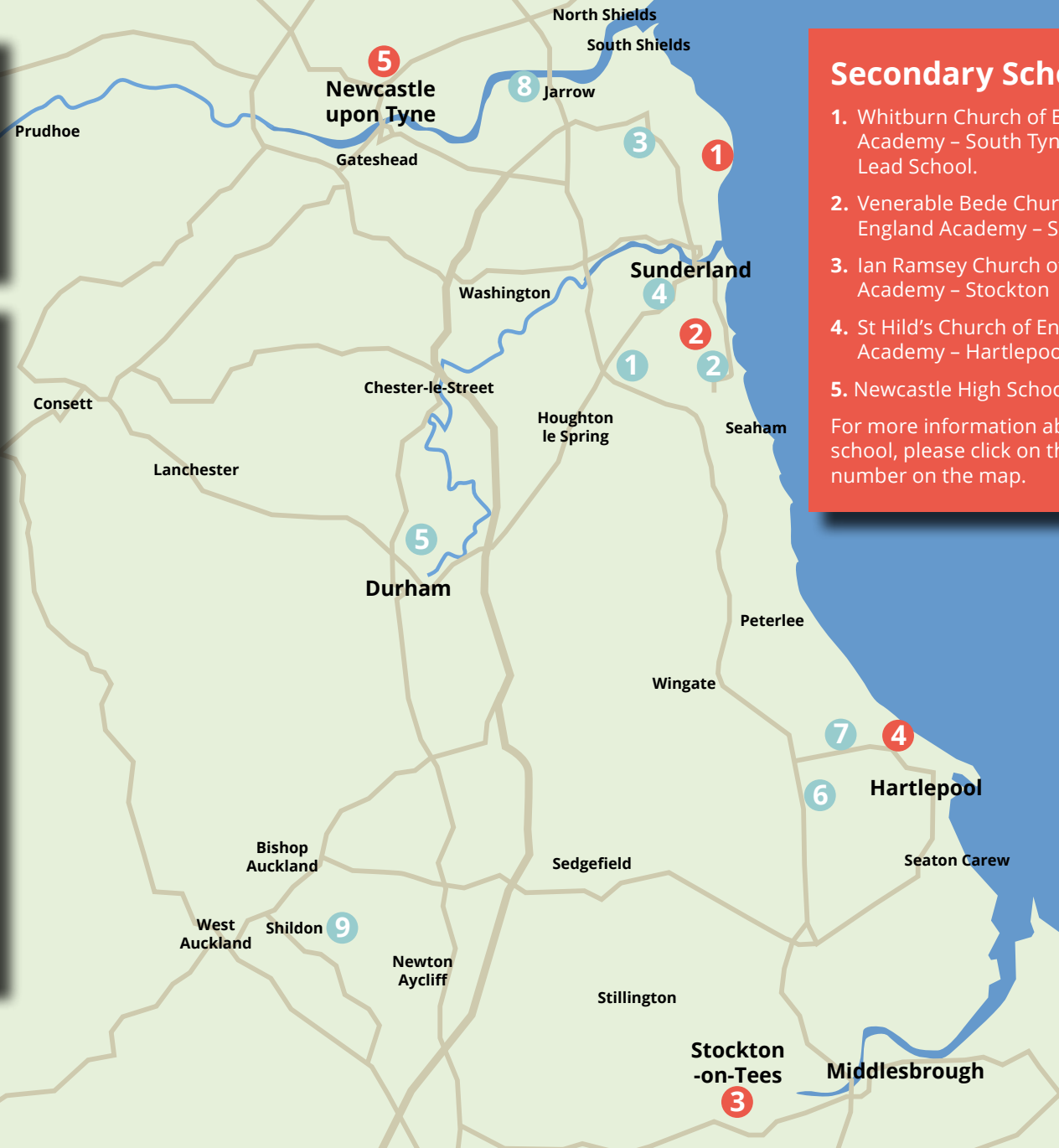
1. Benedict Biscop Church of England Academy - Sunderland. Lead School.
2. St Paul's Church of England Primary School - Sunderland
3. Cleadon Church of England Academy - South Tyneside
4. Richard Avenue Primary School - Sunderland
5. Blue Coat Church of England Junior School - Durham
6. St Peter's Elwick Church of England Primary School - Hartlepool
7. Hart Primary School - Hartlepool
8. St Oswald's Church of England Primary School - South Tyneside
9. St John's Church of England Aided Primary School - Durham

For more information about each school, please click on the relevant number on the map.

## Secondary Schools

1. Whitburn Church of England Academy - South Tyneside. Lead School.
2. Venerable Bede Church of England Academy - Sunderland
3. Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy - Stockton
4. St Hild's Church of England Academy - Hartlepool
5. Newcastle High School for Girls

For more information about each school, please click on the relevant number on the map.





# Do I meet the criteria?

As you'd imagine there are a number of boxes you must tick before you can start to train to become a teacher. Although the requirements differ slightly for primary and secondary teachers to be successful you'll need a variety of skills, formal and informal.

## PRIMARY

Minimum of a grade C GCSE in maths, science and English, or equivalent

A degree with a 2:1 or a First

## SECONDARY

Minimum of a grade C GCSE in maths and English, or equivalent,

A relevant degree with a 2:1 or a First

If you have a 2:2, and want to become a teacher, we are happy to accept an application if you have:

- a GCSE grade B or above in English language (please get in touch if you have a grade C).
- a GCSE grade C or above in mathematics and science.
- two A Levels at grade C or above.

References will be required in all cases, as will a well written personal statement which explains why you want to be a teacher and what you'd bring to the profession. And before you start any School Direct Training course with us you'll need to have passed your **Professional Skills Tests** and had some **experience of working in a classroom**. The Professional Skills Tests help ensure, regardless of the specialism, tomorrow's teachers have the core literacy and numeracy skills required. The tests are free and there is more information on passing the tests **available online**.

Please **get in touch** if you would like to discuss entry requirements.



## CASE STUDY

**Emma Whelam-Tate**  
**School Direct - Primary**

*Why did you choose to train to be a primary teacher?*

The school direct route into teaching provided me with a fantastic grounding for beginning my career as a teacher. Due to the carefully planned structure of the academic year, I gained a sound understanding of theory, subject knowledge and daily classroom practice. It was a great combination.

*What did you find particularly valuable?*

Working alongside experienced teachers was fantastic. The feedback from the weekly mentoring sessions ensured I could develop my professional skills. Because I trained in more than one school I was able to see how different schools work and how alternative approaches can be applied to teaching.

Reflecting back on my training year, I found this route into the teaching the best possible pathway for me.

*What did you like most about the School Direct programme?*

The balance between academic studies and classroom based practice worked for me. I'm now in my first year as a primary teacher and I feel confident and competent in my role.

# How do I apply to PBTSA?

Once you're clear teaching is right for you the first step is to ensure you meet the **minimum criteria?**

You then need to ensure you understand the detail of the ITT programmes we offer. We run School Direct – Training courses in the **north east**. All our courses run from September to July with fees of

£9,000. There are a variety of financial packages available to trainee teachers to cover fees and living costs.

If you're happy with all that you can submit an application via **UCAS**.

Select your course  
(see below)

**The training code for  
PBTSA primary is 2GR8**

**The training codes for  
PBTSA secondary are:**

**English 2HJ9**

**Physics 2JGN**

**Geography 2JGM**

**Maths 2JGP**

**Chemistry 2RTP**

**Religious Education 2RTJ**

**MFL 2JGQ**



## CASE STUDY

**Andrew Mair**  
**School Direct -**  
**Secondary**

*Why did you chose to train to be a secondary teacher with PBTSA?*

As a pupil, the teachers who inspired me were the ones who cared and promoted a culture of excellence. I wanted to be that sort of teacher and thought I could best do that with PTBSA.

*And one year on how do you feel?*

The colleagues who coached me during my School Direct course have given me a solid grounding. Their support and influence has seen me awarded the 'outstanding' final grade and be appointed to work in another excellent school. I couldn't have asked for more.

*What specifically did you benefit from?*

My knowledge, skills and understanding of education have been nurtured through brilliant coaching. My mentor quickly identified my strengths and areas for development. These were subsequently written into a personalised training plan and became the focus of my weekly lesson observations. This personal treatment allowed me to focus on the key areas and not follow a one size fits all course.

**[Hear more about Andrew's story.](#)**



# Summary

- PBTSA offers both primary and secondary Initial Teacher Training.
- Course fees are £9,000 but there are **generous bursaries** available.
- We are part of a network of schools covering ages 3-19.
- Our trainees learn on the job, normally four days a week at their school.
- The fifth day is spent in workshops learning the professional skills needed to be a teacher.
- Trainees attend at least two schools, this variety is an important part of their development.
- If you have the **minimum requirements** you can apply via **UCAS**.

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