

Welcome! We are really looking forward to meeting you in September at the start of your journey towards your teaching career! The beginning of your journey starts when you become a **Student Teacher at Northumbria**.

The following activities are designed to enable you to start thinking in advance about what it means to be a student teacher and to share some of these thoughts with your peers.

You are joining your training at a time of unprecedented challenges within our daily lives due to the Covid-19 pandemic. You will have seen in the media some of the challenges faced by education professionals and you will have thought about the skills you will need to develop to meet these challenges. So, what qualities must a student teacher at Northumbria bring to the programme? Begin this activity by reflecting for a minute or two and create a mind map, or some rough notes, of your thoughts

Now think more broadly, what about the education system as a whole? For example, how have schools, teachers and pupils been affected by the pandemic? Have some schools, some teachers and some pupils been more significantly affected than others? What do you think about the concept of a 'recovery curriculum' for children? What should this include? Again, try to capture your thoughts in note form.

Now consider the following list of qualities that we think will make you an outstanding student teacher at Northumbria.

The Northumbria Student Teacher....

- has pupils at the heart of everything they do
- has high aspirations for themselves and all pupils
- shows a commitment to social justice
- builds professional and positive relationships within the university and school communities
- uses current educational research to inform their thinking and practice
- is a reflective practitioner who actively uses feedback to improve
- sees themselves as a lifelong learner
- shows creativity
- is self-motivated

They demonstrate this through:

- *high levels of attendance on all aspects of their programme*
- *their positive contributions to university and school life*

Your task is to choose one of these statements and find a picture or quotation that illustrates it for you personally. Save this, and, if you like, share it with your fellow students on Twitter. Just Tweet the statement (for example 'The Northumbria Student Teacher has pupils at the heart of everything they do') and accompanying visual @ our Twitter account **@NorthumbriaStan**

Don't forget that your journey towards becoming a professional begins now. Why not create a separate student teacher Twitter account (e.g. username Miss Smith, or Mr Singh) and connect with other education professionals, before term starts?

And finally! Two less serious tasks to consider:

1) There are many different styles of teacher, and many ways in which your pedagogical preferences may emerge. If you like, take five minutes to engage with the (not-very-evidence-based) BuzzFeed survey below, to find out your own preferences:

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/hattiesoykan/what-kind-of-teacher-would-you-be>

Quite obviously, this survey is not grounded in empirical research. But it does reveal an underlying assumption that seems likely to be true: that the kind of person that we are might influence the professional choices that we make in the classroom. *What kind of teacher will you be?*

2) Have some free time over the summer? To get you in the mood, here are the 'Top Five Films for Teachers' according to YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1i4BKuYjwY>

We will see you in September! The Initial Teacher Education Team.