

CHRYSLIS SCITT

START OF YEAR UPDATE



As we begin a new academic year, we are proud to celebrate the successful completion of our inaugural Chrysalis SCITT programme. Our first cohort has achieved Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), marking a significant milestone for both our trainees and the programme itself. We are equally delighted to welcome our new 2026/27 cohort as they begin their own journey into teaching. This edition celebrates the achievements of our first year, introduces our newest trainees, and shares some of the exciting opportunities and developments taking place across Chrysalis SCITT. If you are considering a career in teaching, keep an eye out for recruitment to our 2027/28 programme, which will be launching during the Autumn term.

Alex Lipman

Chrysalis SCITT Course Lead

Celebrating Our First Chrysalis SCITT Cohort

As we begin the new academic year, we are delighted to celebrate the success of our inaugural Chrysalis SCITT cohort. Our first trainee teachers have now successfully completed the programme, with every trainee recommended for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) – a fantastic achievement and an important milestone for Chrysalis SCITT.

Throughout the year, trainees demonstrated exceptional dedication, resilience and professionalism as they developed into confident, reflective practitioners. Their training included Intensive Training and Practice (ITAP) sequences, subject and professional studies conferences, broader school experience placements, self-directed study modules, and completion of a PGCE alongside QTS. Across both the primary and secondary phases, they embraced every opportunity to strengthen their teaching practice, deepen their subject knowledge and grow in confidence.

This success would not have been possible without the commitment of our outstanding mentor team. Thank you to our subject mentors – Simon Blackburn, Piriya Amirthalingam, Jessica DeSouza, Shahid Salaria, Shivani Bhandari, Payal Patel, Bhavinee Hasmukh and Iman Shaikh – as well as our exceptional Lead Mentors, Bianca Abrahams and Davita Grafstein, whose expertise, guidance and encouragement have been instrumental throughout the year. We would also like to thank Sophie Davis, our SCITT Administrator, for her invaluable support with recruitment, communications and programme administration.

Following another successful recruitment cycle, we are excited to welcome our new 2026/27 cohort this September, with trainees joining us across Primary, Mathematics, Science, Geography, Business and Modern Foreign Languages.

We are incredibly proud of everything achieved during our first year. From outstanding trainee outcomes and successful recruitment to retaining talented teachers within our Trust, Chrysalis SCITT is already making a significant contribution to teacher development. We look forward to building on this success and continuing to inspire and develop the next generation of exceptional teachers.



Chrysalis SCITT

OUR SUCCESS IN 2025/26

100%
of trainees
receiving QTS



86%
Employed at ECT
from September



43%
increase
in trainee numbers
for 2026/27



Teach First | Training Partner

Our curriculum partner, Teach First, plays a key role in the delivery of the Chrysalis SCITT programme. Through expert-designed training materials, research-informed content and structured development cycles, Teach First supports trainees in developing strong pedagogical knowledge and reflective classroom practice. This partnership ensures our curriculum is rigorous, current and closely aligned with the demands of effective teaching across a range of school contexts.

Trainees joining Chrysalis as Early Career Teachers

Name	Role / School
Jasmine Murray	Teacher of English, Claremont High School Academy
Piyush Makanji	Teacher of Mathematics, Claremont High School Academy
Sonia Bhandari	Teacher, Sudbury Primary School

Welcoming Our 2026/27 Chrysalis SCITT Cohort

On Thursday 2nd July, we were delighted to welcome our new Chrysalis SCITT cohort for their induction morning, marking the start of their journey into teaching.

The morning provided trainees with an introduction to the programme, an opportunity to meet one another and begin building relationships, as well as taking part in their first teaching and learning activity through a micro deliberate practice exercise. It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm, ambition and commitment of the new cohort as they prepared for the exciting year ahead.

This year, we are pleased to welcome trainees across a wide range of subject areas, including Computing, Geography, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Religious Education, Business Studies and Modern Foreign Languages, reflecting the continued growth of the Chrysalis SCITT programme.

Before leaving, trainees were given a selection of pre-reading and summer preparation activities to help them get ready for the programme, which officially begins with ITAP 1 on Wednesday 2nd September.

We look forward to supporting this talented group of future teachers over the coming year and watching them develop into confident, reflective practitioners.

Sheffield Hallam University delivers the PGCE element of the Chrysalis SCITT programme. Alongside their school-based training and QTS, trainees attend university teaching days throughout the year and complete two assessed PGCE assignments, ensuring a strong balance of academic study and practical classroom experience.

Sheffield Hallam University



Preparing Our Mentors for 2026/27

On Friday 10th July, we were delighted to welcome our 2026/27 Chrysalis SCITT mentors for their official induction day, marking the beginning of their mentoring journey.

The day provided an opportunity to share the vision and ambitions of the Chrysalis SCITT programme, while equipping mentors with the knowledge and skills needed to support trainee teachers effectively. A key focus was on instructional coaching and deliberate practice, two approaches that sit at the heart of our programme and ensure trainees receive high-quality, evidence-informed support through practical exploration, feedback and rehearsal.

Throughout the day, mentors worked collaboratively to explore and practise the key components of the programme, sharing ideas and developing a consistent understanding of what excellent mentoring looks like. It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm and commitment of the group as they prepared to take on this important role.

We are incredibly grateful to all of our mentors for the time, expertise and dedication they bring to Chrysalis SCITT. We look forward to working closely with them throughout the year as they support, challenge and inspire our trainee teachers to become exceptional practitioners.



SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAYS

Interested in experiencing life as a teacher? We offer school experience days at our delivery partner schools, Claremont High School, Sudbury Primary School and Mount Stewart Federation. If you would like to arrange a visit and gain a first-hand insight into the teaching profession, please get in touch.

Contact: admin@claremont-high.org.uk

SCITT APPLICATIONS 2027/28 COMING SOON...

Applications will be open from October/November for places on the Chrysalis SCITT Programme from September 2027. If you, or someone you know, is interested in a future career in teaching, we would love to hear from you. We will be recruiting for:

Primary (ages 3–7), Primary (ages 5–11)
Secondary Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English, Geography, History, Religious Education, Computing and Modern Foreign Languages.

For more information, visit our website or contact us directly:
W: <https://www.chrysalismat.org.uk/Train-to-Teach/>
T. 0208 2024 4442

CHRYSALIS SCITT TEAM 2026/27

At the heart of Chrysalis SCITT is a highly committed and supportive team, working together to deliver exceptional training and strong outcomes for every trainee.



Nicki Hyde-Boughey
Executive Headteacher
Chrysalis Multi Academy Trust



Alex Lipman
SCITT Course Lead



Bianca Abrahams
Secondary Lead
Mentor



Chloe Byrne
Assistant Secondary
Lead Mentor



Davita Grafstein
Primary/Early Primary
Lead Mentor



Sophie Davis
Chrysalis SCITT
Administrator

Chrysalis
SCITT

School Centred Initial Teacher Training

TRAIN TO TEACH

CHRYSLIS SCITT 2027/28

Start your journey to becoming an exceptional teacher.

Chrysalis Multi Academy Trust, in partnership with **Teach First**, offers School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) leading to QTS and a PGCE.

We aim to attract and develop outstanding future Primary and Secondary teachers through hands-on training shaped by the vision, values, and practices of our Multi Academy Trust.

APPLICATIONS OPEN SOON!



For more information visit:
www.chrysalismat.org.uk/train-to-teach
or scan the QR code.



0208 204 4442

www.chrysalismat.org.uk



admin@claremont-high.org.uk

Chrysalis
SCITT
School Centred Initial Teacher Training

Teach First | Training Partner

CHRYSLIS SCITT TRAINEES 2025/26



Sonia Bhandari
QTS 2026
Primary



Tamik Williams-Pyne
QTS 2026
Early Primary



Xuan Luu
QTS 2026
Maths



Piyush Makanji
QTS 2026
Maths



Jasmine Murray
QTS 2026
English



Sophia Hussain
QTS 2026
Science/Biology



Reza Samii
QTS 2026
Science/Chemistry

CONGRATULATIONS
to all our
2025/26
TRAINEES

Teach First | Training Partner

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CHRYSLIS SCITT VISIT:
www.chrysalismat.org.uk/Train-to-Teach/
CONTACT: admin@claremont-high.org.uk

Chrysalis
SCITT
School Centred Initial Teacher Training