

Teacher Training Testimonial

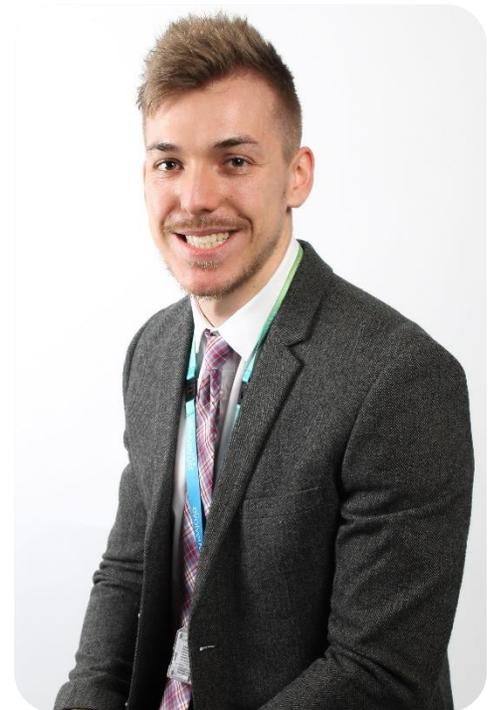
Joshua Morris

Hi, my name is Joshua Morris and I teach History at The Evolve Trust at The Brunts Academy. I completed my undergraduate degree in History at the University of Lincoln, where I focused on a broad array of topics starting from the Medieval period right up to the Civil Rights Movement in America in the 1950/60s. I wanted to become a secondary school teacher as I wanted to continue to develop my understanding in History, but in a way that could be used to educate others.

I applied for a school direct place at The Evolve Trust because I wanted to get a feel for teaching straight away and liked that the school direct pathway provided an opportunity to become part of the school community from the outset. In doing this pathway, I felt that I adjusted to life as a trainee teacher more easily and settled in my main placement school quickly, whilst also still feeling like I was supported by university and my school mentor. I chose to apply for this pathway with The Evolve Trust as they have previously successfully trained many trainee teachers and it was evident from communicating with them that the programme they had here would offer me all the support I needed, as well as offering exciting CPD opportunities that could help fine tune my teacher skill set, in order to be able to succeed in my career as a teacher.

During my training year my week was broken up into 4 days at my main placement school and 1 day at university. This was great as I was able to still have the support of my tutors at university and also feel like I was fully integrated into the teaching life at my placement school. The university side of the course consisted of seminars and workshops, both subject specific and cross curricular groups. The university days enabled me to think about teaching in its pedagogical form and how this can be put into practice effectively. As part of the course I had the experience of a second placement, this was for a 6-week period and offered an alternative school context. This increased my exposure to new ways of teaching and helped me to appreciate the varied structures, systems, policies and procedures that different schools use.

The support I had throughout my training year was extensive, especially from my school mentor who I met each week. In order to show I was making progress, I had numerous observations from colleagues and university mentors, these were used to show that I was meeting the teacher standards along with other evidence I collated



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throughout the year. I participated in a variety of CPD sessions delivered by The Evolve Trust that offered new and exciting teaching techniques which also expanded my thinking further.

After successfully completing the course I secured a job within the trust as a Teacher of Humanities, teaching History across KS3-5. It was amazing to be offered a job to stay within the trust early on in my training year, as I got used to all the systems in place, the type of students and the team that I was working in. During my NQT year I continued to receive support and guidance from my school, as well as a new mentor, to help guide me through the demands of teaching. I was able to get involved in lots of extra opportunities; attending school trips and residentials, completing a Fellowship Programme which earned me valuable Masters credits and also developing my skills as a pastoral member of staff by actively getting involved in the running of the Year 7 tutor team.

I am now in my 3rd year with The Evolve Trust. This year I am an RQT. I have created new schemes of work for all history teachers to use for all year groups. I have also been given more whole school responsibilities, leading on the Gifted and More Able programme across the Academy. These opportunities have given me new experiences in developing my leadership skills and also developing my understanding of teaching from a holistic approach through having more whole school responsibilities.

I would highly recommend training with The Evolve Trust, it offers the very best opportunities for you to grow as a teaching practitioner and continues to support and challenge you beyond your training years.