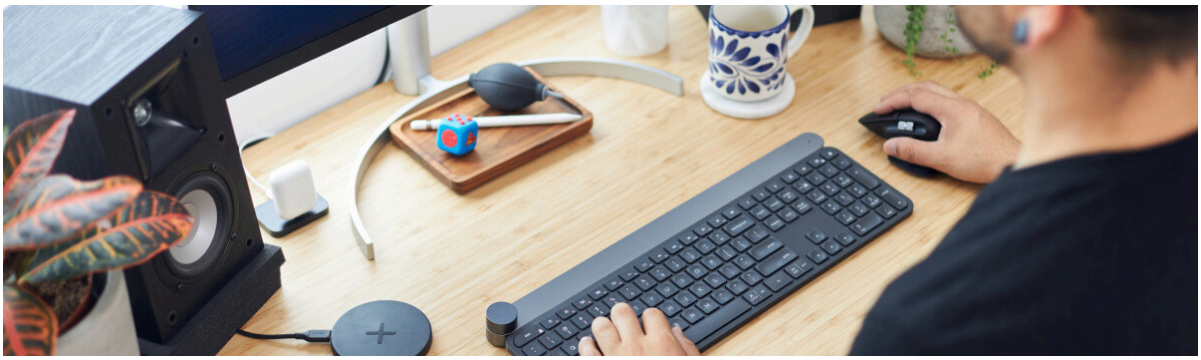
XAVIER ECTE WEEKLY BULLETIN

FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING 2nd NOVEMBER 2026



Audio Version of Bulletin

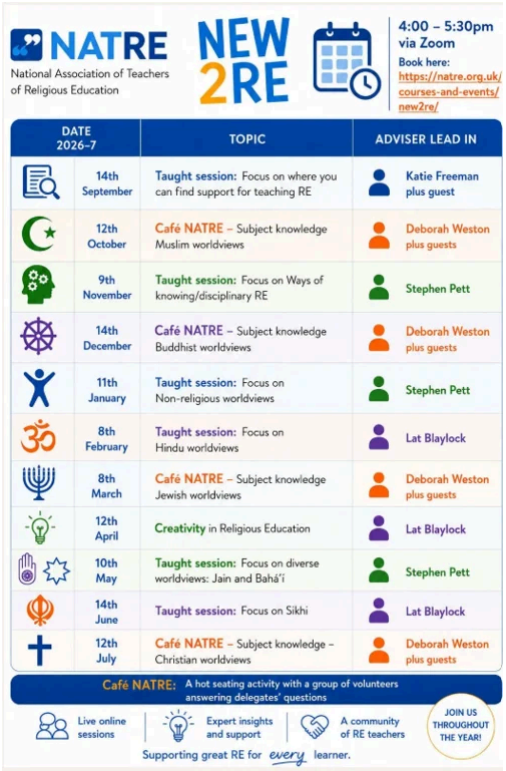
KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

We hope you enjoyed a well-earned half-term break. Welcome back, and we look forward to supporting you on the programme for the rest of this term. As always, any issues or questions please contact us on: teachingschoolhub@xaviercet.org.uk

Additional CPD for ECTs: As part of our Appropriate Body offer, we provide additional online training opportunities for ECTs throughout the year, delivered by expert facilitators. To help us ensure these sessions are relevant and valuable, please complete the Google Form below and share any topics or areas of practice you would find most helpful. Your feedback will help us shape future sessions to best support your professional development.
Link here: Additional CPD Google Form

Seminar catch ups:
Full attendance at seminars is an important expectation of the DfE-funded programme. In the rare event of an authorised absence due to extenuating circumstances, such as a school trip or open day, catch-up materials will be shared once registers have been processed. These are sent **at the beginning of the week following the seminar week.** This gives us time to process attendance registers and collate all authorised absences. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we complete this process and will send materials as soon as they are ready.

FREE NATRE resources for RE ECTs
The New2RE webinars from NATRE provide free tailored support for Early Career Teachers and experienced teachers who are new to teaching Religious Education, including Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE), Religious and Moral Education (RME), and Religious Studies. For more info visit: New2RE free webinars – NATRE



IMPORTANT DATES

ECT 1 seminars - take place **between** the **16th November** and **19th November** depending on your venue (see messages for YEAR 1 ECTS)

ECT 2 Primary seminars - take place between **between** the **9th November and 12th of November** depending on your venue (see messages for YEAR 2 ECTS)

Mentor training dates:
Moving form novice to expert - **Tuesday 3rd or Thursday 5th November** at 4pm online Link to Teams (see messages for MENTORS) NB: Fully trained mentors are no longer required for training.

YEAR 1 ECTS

ECT 1 seminars

Module 2 Seminar 1: Avoiding working memory overload - **week commencing 16th November** - 4-5.30pm in person.

Brightspace Tasks

Module 2: How do pupils learn?
1. Complete the diagnostic for Module 2
2. Complete session 1: Working and long-term memory

Check in

Our last training session with mentors was focused on workload and wellbeing. Half a term in, please spend some time reflecting on how you are managing your workload and wellbeing.

Consider how you are managing the different demands on your time and ensuring you are well prepared for your lessons. If you have any concerns please do discuss these with your mentor in the first instance.

Entitlement checks

You will have noticed that the evaluation forms following your most recent seminar contained more questions than usual. Each term we have to carry out an entitlement check for our ECTs and we do this through the evaluations. We will follow up with any ECTs who have indicated that they are not receiving their full entitlements.

If you cannot access Brightspace please contact: Contact Us | My Teach First

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YEAR 2 ECTS

Mentor drop-in observation: Please arrange a time for your mentor to carry out a short drop-in observation. This will provide an opportunity to see how you are applying and embedding your recent learning within your teaching practice.

Mentor meeting 3: Please arrange a mentor meeting this week to reflect on the key learning from your *Engage with an Expert* observation or discussion. Use this meeting to refine your action steps and consider how you will apply this learning within your own classroom practice. This is also an opportunity for your mentor to provide feedback and instructional coaching linked to the drop-in observation.

Brightspace Self-Study 2: Please complete **Self-Study 2 on Brightspace (approximately 25 minutes)** and the **Knowledge Check** at the end of the module. Completion of both activities is required to evidence your engagement with the self-study materials.

HALF TERM: Please follow the guidance below based on your school's half-term dates.

If your school has a **one-week half-term (beginning Monday 26th October)**, please complete the following ECT2 activities across the two weeks beginning 19th October and 2nd November (before and after half-term):

- Mentor drop-in observation
- Mentor Meeting 3
- Brightspace Self-Study 2

If your school has a **two-week half-term (beginning Monday 19th October)**, please complete the same three ECT2 activities across the two weeks beginning 2nd November and 9th November.

MENTORS

Mentors mentoring an ECT1

Brightspace Task

Ahead of your meeting complete the diagnostic tool for **Module 2**

Mentor Meeting Focus

1. Follow the section Holding high expectations and maintaining engagement in the Mentor Handbook p31-33
2. Lead a diagnostic focused conversation, Mentor Handbook p35-36
If you do not have a two week half term then you may choose to split the mentor meeting one before half term and one after.

Mentors mentoring an ECT2

You will need to observe your ECT2 either this week or in the first week back after half term if you have a two week half term. The next mentor meeting is a follow up to the observation so could be undertaken in this week or after half term.

New and partially trained mentors

DC1 Mentor Interaction 3: Mentor Handbook p16-17

Trained mentors

DC1 Mentor Interaction 3:Mentor Handbook p20-21

Brightspace Mentor Support Videos

Teach First have released the following really useful videos to support you monitoring your ECT's progress on Brightspace and support your ECT with their self study.

Getting started with Brightspace: A guide for mentors

ECTP: The Brightspace Auditing Function for Mentors This allows you to see your ECT's progress on Brightspace.

ECTP 2026: The Year 1 Diagnostic Process

ECTP: The Year 2 Diagnostic Process

Mentor Training

All of the Welcome mentor training is now finished.

All catch-up materials are available on the ECTE member of our website for all mentors who have been unable to attend any of the welcome training. Xavier Teaching School Hub - Recorded 2026-27 mentor training seminars

Make sure you **complete the engagement forms** to ensure we can log your engagement with TeachFirst.

The following training is for **new ECT mentors** and **partially trained ECT mentors** whose training needs analysis suggests these seminars.

Moving form novice to expert - Tuesday 3rd **or** Thursday 5th November at 4pm online Link to Teams

Fully Trained, Partially Trained and New Mentors

We are aware that there are many of you who have mentored a trainee or ECT before and as the programme progresses there are increasing variables of 'mentor types' in terms of their training status. Xavier will only have a record of your training if you have completed ECT Mentor training with us. All other mentor's status is determined by a Training Needs Analysis button on your Brightspace platform.

Fully Trained Mentors - Will not have access to the Training Needs Analysis or Mentor Training on Brightspace as Teach First will recognise them as trained. They will complete the welcome seminars and attend no further training. Fully Trained Mentors will have access to the Diagnostic tool and their ECT's Modules in order to support their ECT's recommended pathway.

Partially Trained Mentors - Will need to complete the Mentor Eligibility question sent to them via email from Teach First. This will release the Mentor Training Needs analysis on Brightspace. If you have not received this email please contact Contact Us | My Teach First
New Mentors - Will need to complete the Mentor Eligibility question sent to them via email from Teach First in order to release the correct materials on Brightspace. If you have not received this email please contact Contact Us | My Teach First

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INFORMATION FOR INDUCTION TUTORS

Half term deadline for reporting concerns with your ECT's progress

End-of-term progress reviews will soon be upon us. If you have any concerns regarding an ECT's progress, please contact s.hunter@xaviercet.org.uk as early as possible. This enables us to work together to provide timely support and ensure appropriate action can be taken where needed before progress reviews are completed.

Maternity/Paternity Leave

Please do let us know if your ECT goes or returns from Maternity/Paternity leave. Please be aware that this is a protected characteristic and this time away can count towards ECT induction. We are here to help support schools to implement specific DfE guidance. Induction for early career teachers (England) section 3.8

Are you a new Induction Tutor? - If so, please contact Sophie Hunter to arrange a Teams meeting to go over any questions you may have about your new role: s.hunter@xaviercet.org.uk . Sophie can talk you through the platforms you will work on and ensure you are aware of your responsibilities for the term ahead. If you haven't already engaged in the induction tutor training please do so here: Xavier Teaching School Hub - Induction tutor training

If any links in this bulletin do not work for you, you may need to copy and paste the url and open it in a new window depending on your school's IT set up.

Need to change a mentor or any details? Please complete this Google Form: **https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13Sw4sr8aJEtypDRSlbEgqlm-ssxuXwfjJd_1bQ-ARiY/edit**

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION REGARDING BRIGHTSPACE?

If you have any questions about Teach First's online learning platform please contact them
https://my.teachfirst.org.uk/contact-us

LOG IN TO OUR MEMBER AREA BELOW:

All information about the programme can be found on the Xavier ECTE Member area here:
Log in details below:

https://www.tshub.xaviercet.org.uk/

email: xavierecf@xavier.org.uk

password:
Xaviertsh2024

CONTACT US BELOW:

Our team is here to support you every step of the way. If you need help, have any questions, please contact us: teachingschoolhub@xaviercet.org.uk
Thank you for your patience with us at this busy time,we will try to get back to you asap.

Xavier Teaching School Hub, Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9LU

Manage preferences