

July 2020

Dear PGCE Historian,

Once again, many congratulations on being offered a place on the PGCE course in History at the University of Manchester. I cannot tell you how excited I am to be starting the course in September with you! It's been an unprecedented year in many ways but I feel really hopeful about the coming academic year and feel that this is the strongest and most diverse cohort I've had the pleasure of recruiting so far.

Firstly, a word on readings and core texts. Our complete list of set texts for History PGCE course will be provided in September, but you might want to consider purchasing the following books before the beginning of the course. Don't feel that you need to read them all over summer – these are simply the texts that we use most frequently, that you may want to have your own copy of. **All of you will be provided with a free copy of the core text**, Haydn et al, as an e- book, when the course starts.

- Davies, I. ed., (2017). Debates in History Teaching. Taylor & Francis.
- Haydn, T., Stephen, A., Arthur, J. and Hunt, M., (2014). Learning to teach History in the secondary school: A companion to school experience. Routledge.
- Tarr, R., (2016). A History Teaching Toolbox: Practical Classroom Strategies. CreateSpace.
- Thorne, S., (2018). Becoming an Outstanding History Teacher. Routledge.

All of the above books should be available from Blackwell University Bookshop, The Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9RN, Tel: 0161 274 3331, Email: [Manchester@Blackwell.co.uk](mailto:Manchester@Blackwell.co.uk). All are available on Amazon and many will be available as second hand copies too.

Prior to the start of the course it is a good idea to join the Historical Association. There is a reduced rate for trainee teachers: <https://www.history.org.uk/membership/info/secondary>

I have e-mailed you all individually with some slides that give advice on subject knowledge development. I would advise that you take a look at the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3 History and make a note of any topics that you feel less confident on and perhaps undertake some light reading, although it is worth saying that you will only be required to teach a small part of this and what you teach will be dictated by your placement school, which you will find out in September. You will have at least a month before starting placement to work on your subject knowledge acquisition.

If you have any queries over the summer please do not hesitate to contact the PGCE team or to call me directly: you all have my mobile number and can call during working hours, between 9am and 5pm. I'm really looking forward to working with you all. I think the class of 2021 will be a rare vintage!

Warmest regards

**Tom Donnai**  
**History PGCE Subject Leader**