Information on Course Structure: Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) - Biology

Induction Phase - Assessment of Initial Needs and Preparation Activities

In their first week with Eureka Online College, students complete their induction which includes tasks helping them to identify strengths and weaknesses in their subject knowledge.

An experienced and qualified biology teacher will use the results of these activities to decide on the most appropriate units of study and pathway through the learning material, ensuring first to cover the core biology ideas necessary to successfully teach or train to teach biology before moving onto optional units or A Level Biology.

For students that are enrolled onto our courses, Eureka Online College agree to:

1. Hold an induction meeting online to explain the structure and layout of the course and help with navigation through the online learning platform

2. Give feedback to students on the outcome to induction tasks in a timely manner and offer support and assistance as necessary via phone, email or online

3. Generate a timeline, making use of the assessment data and information gained from the induction week to select the most appropriate units of study that will support the student in preparation for their initial teacher training

4. In collaboration with the student and ITT provider, decide on the structure of their initial and ongoing units and if they will follow a linear course, spiral learning or a mixture of both

Main phase of SKE course and on-going activities

Core Units 1, 2, 3 and Advanced Level Biology:

The GCSE content is divided up into 3 levels. Core 1 covers the foundation material, Core 2 covers the medium level biology ideas and Core 3 covers higher level biology at GCSE and the overlap with A level. We are able to select the most appropriate starting points for the students and can also put together bespoke programmes depending on the student's individual needs. Students on shorter courses or those that prefer a linear approach have the option to include material up to A2 biology in their units, which we have called "Core Plus Units" on the VLE. The flexibility of our courses and the bespoke nature of our prevision is warmly received by our students.

Personal Tutor

The personal tutor's role is to monitor students' engagement on the SKE programme, review assignments and to give feedback via the online learning platform. They report any lack of engagement to the programmes manager, who would inform the relevant ITT provider of any concerns raised. The personal tutor will liaise with the subject tutor to get an informed picture of a student's progress. At the end of the

course, the personal tutor will write the final report. Please see below for more detail on the contents of the final report.

Subject tutor

Each student is assigned their own subject tutor to ask questions in the forum, via email or phone for any subject based query. All other queries are to be directed to the personal tutor.

When completing the SKE course full time, students receive one to one lessons with their subject tutor biweekly. The lessons are online and 1 hour in length. The subject tutor is able to cover any area of biology necessary to support the student's learning on their SKE course. Since the subject tutor that takes the online lessons will also be a practising biology teacher, often what is woven into these sessions is biology pedagogy, how best to approach the biology concepts in class and what are the misconceptions to look out for once students start their ITT. The content of the lesson is negotiated between the student and tutor in advance allowing at least 48 hours notice for the tutor to put the necessary resources together (questions, presentations etc). Students that are studying part time will have the same number of lessons, but spread over the length of the course they are on e.g.

- 8 Week SKE course attracts 4 bespoke one to one lessons
- 16 Week SKE course attracts 8 bespoke one to one lessons etc...

For students that are enrolled on our courses, Eureka Online College agree to:

5. Review and feedback regularly to students on their assignments and learning journal comments

6. Monitor students' discussion board postings and respond to questions raised there or via email

7. Check students' progress against their individual timeline and report any concerns with engagement or progress on the course to their respective ITT provider

8. Complete internal quality assurance checks to ensure feedback is appropriate and consistent

9. Grade assignments and units, ensuring that the student's work meets the requirement of the course

10. Schedule online lessons once per 2 week cycle on average (when studying full time) with a qualified teacher of Biology

11. Support students by email, phone or online answering queries and subject based questions within 24 hours

12. Provide regular updates to the ITT provider as necessary and via prior arrangement (usually once per 4 week cycle to synchronise with bursary payments)

Final report and end of SKE

Once a student has completed their SKE we will send the ITT provider a detailed final report celebrating the student's successes and will highlight aspects of their subject knowledge that they need to work on further to help them as they complete their ITT. Students will continue to have access to our online resources for 1 year after completing the course so that they can refer to the online material as they train to become a teacher. Previous students have found this extremely helpful when lesson planning in their first placement school as well as having a valuable relevant source of information to refer back to as and when required.