

University of St Mark & St John: Learning from peers



“This sustainable approach towards financial education that has been adopted by the University of St Mark and St John, although in its infancy is impressive. We very much look forward to seeing the impact over time as this initiative grows and develops”

Adviser for Health, Wellbeing and Citizenship, Plymouth LA

Following a series of well received seminars for Year 2 B.Ed. ITT trainees, the University of St Mark and St John were keen to adopt a sustainable approach for financial education within the courses offered for Primary Education. The University wanted to capitalise on the most enthusiastic and capable ITT trainees who were especially interested in financial education and further develop their role as **Financial Education Student Ambassadors**.

Key focus

Financial Education Student Ambassadors are a small focused group of trainee teachers who are highly motivated as a result of engaging in FE seminars and training at the university and who had had positive experiences from a highly successful teaching practice. These trainees successfully planned, delivered and evaluated a sequence of financial education lessons and formal observations.

Approach

Student Ambassadors were offered the opportunity to participate in further financial education activities as part of an enrichment placement lasting 2 weeks in the summer term. For some, this enabled the placement schools to fully participate in **pfeg's** [My Money Week 2013](#).

The University of St Mark and St John offer Student Ambassadors the opportunity to complete an assignment which together with their portfolio of evidence that includes formal lesson observations relating to financial education will lead to a formal certificate.

University of St Mark and St John secured the ongoing support of some Plymouth LA financial education Lead Teachers. They are current practitioners who have been recognised for outstanding practice in financial education and who will be able to continue to further support Student Ambassadors through invitations to their regular meetings and also remotely and less formally by email.

This will build sustainability into their B.Ed. Primary programme for future cohorts as the training and seminars delivered as part of the Year 2 programme of study will be repeated year on year. These Lead Teachers will engage Student Ambassadors in the planning of

ongoing training events and will undoubtedly include the experiences of previous Student Ambassadors.

Impact

As Student Ambassadors progress into Year 3 and their role develops, they are looking forward to feeding back their own reflections and experiences to the students that follow them. These reflections are invaluable for other students to discover the lessons learnt.

For the University of St Mark and St John the process of building sustainability for financial education within their Primary Education programmes has just begun. The role of the Student Ambassadors will develop and grow with each cohort.



“It has been great to arrive at a school on teaching practice and be the expert in something - financial has allowed me to do just that! I have had great feedback from the Deputy Head Teacher who said the school will certainly welcome more student teachers who, like me, have had training in the teaching of financial education.”

Year 2 B.Ed trainee