

Why be a Teach First Coach?

The Teach First Coaching scheme gives individuals from all walks of life the opportunity to be part of an incredible story that is changing the face of London's challenging schools. Teach First Coaches (referred to as 'Coaches') support our teachers and, through them, their pupils, as they get clear on their goals for the future and, importantly, continue to impact education. The minimum time commitment is limited, while your potential impact is huge.

"Coaches can help by listening without prejudice. They can be impartial and unbiased, and if asked, can give their opinion. They can ask questions to help the teacher find direction, and sometimes use their contacts to help. I tell my Teach First Coachee that he should not be afraid to ask – I can always say no, but might be able to say 'yes'."
Teach First Coach



With the support of 300 volunteers over the last two years including Minister of State for Schools Jacqui Smith MP, Teach First teachers are breaking down barriers between business, government and education. They're also making an impact – education ministers have credited Teach First as being one reason why schools in London are among the fastest improving in the country.

Be a part of our success story. Read this brochure to understand what's involved, hear from current volunteers and find out how to sign up.

I hope you will take on this challenge and look forward to welcoming you at a matching event soon!

Sincerely,
Brett Wigdortz, Chief Executive

How does your involvement help?

Support from businesses and charities has ensured that Teach First is the highest ranked charity in the Times Top 100 Graduate Employers; that over 30,000 pupils in challenging London schools have access to one or more Teach First teachers and that over 75% of our teachers teach shortage subjects including Maths and Science.

What is Teach First Coaching?

Coaches volunteer to meet one-to-one with a Teach First teacher during their second year in school, as they make decisions about their professional and personal development, their plans for the future and how this all fits together.

How does Coaching work?

Who can be a Coach?

Coaches come from all walks of life. Many work for Teach First's supporting companies; others represent schools, international charities, government bodies, entrepreneurs, professional coaching bodies and the media. Volunteers should be professionals with at least three years' work experience. They should be qualified in their field and have a good network. All Coaches share a commitment to helping challenging schools using their skills and experiences to support and direct the graduates on the Teach First programme.

If your company is not a supporter, please contact us. A list of our supporters is overleaf.

How many Coaches are needed?

We have 120 places for Coaches in 2006.

What will I learn?

As a Teach First Coach, you will practice recognised Coaching techniques as you support your Coachee to enable them to progress their goals. You will hear about the challenges facing education from a practicing Teach First teacher. You will benefit from basic Coaching training from professional practitioners, and share experiences with new and repeat Teach First Coaches.

What's the time commitment?

Coaches sign-up to attend an initial half-day induction and matching session on either Thursday June 8th or Tuesday June 20th from 14:00-21:00h including a light supper. You then commit to meet your Coachee at least twice, with further contact agreed between you, at your convenience. You might also arrange to visit the teacher's school during "Teach First Week", starting November 13th 2006, where supporters guest-teach or observe a lesson.

What training is provided?

The first part of training is the induction workshop (14:00-17:30h). This will familiarise Coaches with what it means to be a Teach First Coach, the Coaching context and the expectations of both the Coach and the teacher. Repeat volunteers will share experiences and best practices, and our supervisor professional Coaches will introduce recognised Coaching techniques. Building on past coaching successes, we're keen to equip Coaches to play a greater role and hope that the Coaches will gain a lot from the induction workshops.

How will matching happen?

After the induction, the teachers will arrive at the venue (from 18:00-21:00h). We will coordinate a series of short conversations, designed to create "good matches." Teachers and Coaches then feed back their preferences and matching takes place. By the end of the evening, this should identify your coaching pair.

Is everyone matched?

We are keen to take advantage of the skills of all our volunteers and work hard to ensure an equal number of Coaches and teachers at each matching event to allow one-to-one matches for everyone. However, inevitably sometimes there is a mismatch. If this happens, we may invite a few volunteers either to take two Coachees or to be matched after the event or put through to the next round. You can indicate your willingness to help in this way on the sign up form.

About Teach First

Launched in 2002, Teach First is an independent charity set up by London First, Business in the Community, McKinsey & Company and many others. Our mission is to address educational disadvantage by transforming exceptional graduates into effective and inspirational teachers and leaders in all fields. We attract the UK's most successful graduates to teach for at least two years in challenging urban secondary schools, while preparing them to succeed long-term as leaders inside and outside of education. Teach First Coaching is a key support mechanism for our teachers as they plan their leadership journeys.

Coaching in Profile

Craig Berresford (Citigroup) and Edward Marsh (TF'04)



Craig is head of Client Services at Citigroup. He's been a coach for two years, and was matched with Ed, a business studies teacher in Enfield, in June 2005. "Coaching has been a wonderful experience. Teach First teachers always stay positive in very tough circumstances and believe they can help. I'm not sure I could do that, but I can do a little bit to help with the coaching skills I've picked up over the years, and that's really rewarding," says Craig.

Ed adds: "Craig's been great. He's experienced and knowledgeable and is willing to answer any of my questions. He's helped me think about how to portray Teach First to people outside of teaching. At the same time, he's been really clear about the decisions I need to take for myself. As the teacher, the more you put in the more you get out."

Sarah-Jane Acloque (Guardian) and Cameron Palmer (TF'04)



Sarah-Jane (SJ) has been a Teach First Coach since 2004. Cameron is a languages teacher in Newham. Cameron says: "We've met up a couple of times and talk over the phone about once a month. I wanted to figure out my career options inside and outside of school, and we've definitely done that as I've taken a promotion in school for next year. Overall, Coaching has been one of the highlights of my second year – it's been so positive."

SJ adds: "I'm a big fan of Teach First - if it had been around when I was studying I would definitely have applied. Coaching is a good way of getting involved - and doesn't require me to have a teaching background."

News from a Coach: Graham Crawshaw (EMI Music)



"I had a very enjoyable day visiting Neil Walker (TF'04) at his school - the Skinners' Company School for Girls (near Hackney). I shadowed him for the day joining in his complete timetable. The two of us had prepared a "music industry case study" which acted as a revision exercise on break-even analysis and cash flow management for his Business Studies class. The students loved doing the exercise and using Robbie Williams CDs as the basis of the calculations helped make it a bit different from the normal counting of widgets. The school is situated in a very challenging area and at times it was quite frightening what basics needed to be explained."

"I was exhausted at the end of the day but learnt so much and it was great to see Neil in action. You can see the respect that he is able to command. I would strongly recommend spending a day in school – it's an enlightening experience."

New for Coaches this year, Teach First Week (from November 13th 2006) will give Coaches the chance to guest teach or observe a lesson in their Coachee's school. Find out more at the Coaching training.

Teach First Coaching is supported by Citigroup Foundation:

"We believe that investing in the education of the next generation pays off not only for those individuals but also for their communities. Through both monetary and voluntary time commitments to the education systems, teachers and students, Citigroup Foundation equips young people with skills and knowledge for personal and professional success."

- Daria Sheehan, Senior Program Officer, Citigroup Foundation



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