

## Initial Teacher Training Students and our Placement schools

We would like to thank all of our student teachers who have been on placement in our Partnership schools over this stressful period. Your commitment to your pupils has been exceptional and is a source of great pride to the university.

Our enormous thanks go as well to the teachers and mentors who have supported you so well, in spite of the many challenges they faced themselves. Our OFSTED report celebrated the strength of our Partnership and we have certainly witnessed that over recent weeks.

Some students were given permission to leave placement early, in order to fly home before it became too difficult, or because of their health. We have received a number of comments such as this one from schools where this has been the case:

*“We would like to take both of them next year as we both feel we owe something to them for their professionalism and selflessness”*

We know that our student teachers will be anxious about what happens next, if they are unable to return to their placements as planned. We are awaiting guidance from the Department for Education and will take appropriate steps as soon as the picture is clear.

These are uncertain times, but please be assured that your programme staff at LJMU and our Partnership schools will do everything possible to ensure that you are able to graduate with Qualified Teacher Status, so that you can continue to make a positive contribution to your profession and to the wider educational sector.