Feedback from both partners and students has indicated a long gap between placement activity in (programme) y2 to y3. Coupled with feedback from school partners about impact on training allowing students to see schools in action early on during the autumn term would enhance learning. The UoC partnership has been keen to explore ways of offering students and partners this opportunity.

From Sept 2019 we have introduced a QTS3 Key Stage Orientation placement; This Placement will enhance the link and lead in to the students final teaching placement in Spring/Summer 2020 (extending phase).

Students on the BA (Hons) QTS programme follow a placement structure that offers them a placement in each of the 3 phases of Primary education (EYFS - KS1 - KS2).

This 2-week orientation placement (12th October – 23rd October 2020) will occur (wherever possible) in the school and key stage linked to the summer assessed 10-week placement. The 2 weeks will not be formally assessed and will not require any paperwork to be completed by mentors.

Some students may be considering options such as a teaching placement in a London or NE Multi Academy Trusts partnerships or NI placements for their extending phase; therefore, not all students will return during the spring/summer term to their orientation school / setting.

We will ask students to consider the following aspects during their visit and would expect opportunity to meet with trained mentors (at least twice), subject leads and senior leaders in the school during their visit:

- Understanding the school’s / setting’s ethos and classroom exemplification at that stage/phase
- Key Stage / Phase planning requirements (particular focus on how sequences of learning are planned for)
- School and Key Stage / Phase specific progress data tracking & analysis
- School / Setting marking & feedback processes
- School safeguarding processes
- Key Stage / Phase Curriculum breadth & depth
- Weekly Reflection by students

Students may also wish to lead taught activities, focus on reading, phonics input or have a focus in a subject strength through which a research project could be shaping later in the year and students may discuss collection of data at a future point. Students / Partners may well wish to build on this 2-week introduction and extend visits throughout the year (no formal requirement).