

## **A job swap with a school based tutor**

Fran trained to teach mathematics on our two year PGCE route. After two years working in London she is now working at one of our partnership schools and has become a school based tutor. She and a colleague from the London school worked with me to bid for a Best Practice Research Scholarship. We were successful and they have been carrying out a handling data/citizenship project with two Y8 mixed attainment classes – one at each school. As part of this project Fran has done a great deal of reading and thinking about teaching data handling. Fran's school is unusual in our partnership because they teach mathematics in mixed attainment groups up to Y9. I have a philosophical commitment to this way of working but little practical experience.

Fran and I decided to organise a job swap. She would come to the university and teach two three hour sessions with the PGCE cohort and I would go to her school and teach her 5 lesson day. She would focus on handling data issues including; her research project, an evaluation of how she has used the KS3 resource pack and the issues around the handling data coursework in Y10. I would teach two Y8 groups, a Y9 group, a Y10 group and a Y12 group. I had done some work with the PGCE student teachers on Cabri and decided to ask them to help me plan an introduction to Cabri lesson for one of the Y8 groups.

The actual day was challenging and wonderful. Although I have been to Fran's school a couple of times I still had that feeling of not quite knowing where everything is and of the pupils being at home whilst I was a visitor. It was an excellent reminder of what my PGCE students feel on placement. Not all of my lessons were successful and I did a lot of thinking about how you start working with pupils you don't know – again an issue which is key for the students. The next session in the university we discussed and dissected my Cabri introduction lesson plan and evaluation. I hope the student teachers came to realise that teaching always demands careful thought and planning.

Fran really enjoyed the day and gained a renewed sense of where the student teachers were in their developing understanding of teaching and learning. She found it much more difficult to decide how successful her session had been than I did which led us to an interesting discussion about how we evaluate our teaching and what clues our learners give us.