



Keynote Speaker 1: Amie Blockley, BSc (Hons)



Amie is currently teaching Year 4 at Anglesey Primary Academy in her home town of Burton-Upon-Trent. She achieved a First in her Psychology with Education Studies degree at De Montfort University (DMU) in 2014 then worked at De Montfort Students Union (DSU) for two years as the Deputy President Education, leading on policy, student voice and campaigns such as saving Leicester Central Fire Station. Amie coordinated the student response to DMU's Quality Assurance (QAA) review and then trained as a QAA auditor. She successfully gained a place on the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) panel. As TEF panellist for two years, with a team of academics, employers and students, she helped decide the outcomes of institutions across the country. After DSU, she got married, became a Teaching Assistant at New College Leicester and a Trustee of the YMCA in Leicester alongside her TEF work, which inspired her to apply to become a teacher. Teach First, a charity dedicated to addressing educational inequality, saw potential in Amie and enrolled her onto a Postgraduate Diploma in Education - Leadership in Learning (Primary) at Birmingham City University (BCU) and trained her for 5 weeks this summer. The first year includes gaining Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and the second as a newly qualified teacher (NQT) focusing on leadership. She intends to upgrade her diploma to a masters in Educational Leadership and continue working in education. Ever since her student days at DMU, Amie mentors a young adult, offering 1:1 social, educational and emotional support. She recently moved from Leicester to a village in the South Derbyshire countryside with her husband, cat, guitars and two drum kits.

Keynote Session: Student Voice: Finding it, using it and teaching others to find theirs

"Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder" – Rumi.

We all know the buzzword "Student Voice" but what does that really look and feel like as a student?

From the groans about the cafeteria minuted in student meetings to pouring over NSS data and comments, we have access to student opinion like never before, but how can we utilise it to our advantage? How can we support students in important roles where their input shapes the very future of your work and others? It can feel like an incredibly daunting task, particularly when trying to cater for a large variety of students and needs. Amie is going to

take us through her experiences in her roles so far, from sabbatical officer to TEF panel member and now as a trainee teacher. She is keen to answer any questions you may have and wants to help you to feel more confident about the future of student engagement.