

Tutoring scheme gives pupils learning boost

Government drive seeks extra teachers in east of England for one-on-ones

PUPILS facing challenges in maths and English have been given a helping hand by a Government initiative, which is recruiting specialist teachers in the east of England.

The scheme, launched in June, has already attracted more than 27,000 tutors nationally.

Now, the Training and Development Agency for Schools is looking to recruit even more, especially from the east of England, which has had fewer applicants compared to other parts of the country.

The new push to attract tutors in the east comes as new research shows the majority of pupils in the area find it hard to ask for extra help in front of their class.

Most pupils see the benefit of extra support, with 61 per cent of those questioned believing it would help them improve in the subjects they find challenging.

More than half stated it would help them to achieve their very best.

Teachers at Notley High School, in Braintree, are well aware of these statistics, as they have been involved in the scheme from the start.

Sue Moss, assistant head-teacher at the school, said: "Since we've been part of the pilot, many students have said they've loved having the individual time with a tutor.

"Individual tuition has been a different forum for students to interact with a teacher, other than in the classroom, and it has allowed them to gain a different view about the help teachers can give.

"Many of the pupils go back to

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their tutors when they need help, even though they have completed their tuition."

Luke Prow, a Year 10 pupil, added: "I was selected for one-to-one tuition because I wasn't making much progress in Year 8. I was stuck in level 5.

"I had just achieved level 5 in Year 6, and had also been on the same level at the end of Year 7.

"At the start, I thought tuition would be a pain and I had been chosen because I wasn't very smart. I thought my teacher would be really annoyed if I did

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not learn anything. But once it started, I changed my mind.

"I thought the tutoring was really good. It was in the library with other people, also having tuition, and I didn't feel it was because I wasn't clever.

"I am now progressing to level 7 and I feel much more confident when answering questions during a lesson. It's worth doing."

The TDA is calling on current, former and retired qualified teachers to sign up to the programme, with the aim of recruiting more than 4,000 tutors in the east by the end of the year.

Tutors will be paid to provide



■ Intensive learning – Sue Moss tutors Luke Prow

Picture: SEANA HUGHES XXLVS

ten one-to-one sessions to eligible pupils, aged between seven and 16, to help get them back on track.

The lessons can take place in a school, in the pupil's home, or at a town centre location, such as a library. Tuition is held during school hours, after school, at

weekends, or in school holidays.

For more information, or to become a one-to-one tutor, interested teachers should call 0845 6055002.

Alternatively, you can e-mail onetoonetutor@tda.gov.uk or visit www.tda.gov.uk/teachers/onetoonetutor

Many of the pupils go back to their tutors when they need help, after completing tuition