**Lucy Allinson, languages trainee**

**Dixons Teacher Training 2019-2020**

After having spent a year teaching abroad as part of my degree, I decided to pursue a career in teaching and applied to train with Dixons Academies straight after graduating. As a former student of Dixons City Academy, I already knew firsthand that they aimed to challenge educational and social disadvantage, and give every student the best chance to achieve and succeed no matter what their background. Throughout my training year, it has been so rewarding to see the difference I have made in such a short time and I’m looking forward to continuing to make a difference as an NQT at Dixons Trinity Academy.

My teaching journey started in February when I signed up to the *Get Into Teaching* website. Although the application process was difficult initially, I was allocated an experienced advisor who guided me through the process. After two successful interviews later that year, I chose Dixons Teacher Training because I wanted a course that incorporated more school experience than university lectures. This meant that I was part of a working department at my placement school and my teaching hours gradually increased as soon as I felt ready. Alongside working in a school, I had regular school-based lectures which supported me with assignments and ensured I felt part of the university community.

My top tip for any trainees or applicants would be to stay organised from the beginning and balance your workload by managing your time. It is normal to sometimes feel overwhelmed, especially if you are new to the profession, so being prepared is important. It is also important to recognise that this year will be challenging because there is a lot of new information to take in. Everyone has different levels of experience and different strengths and weaknesses, so try not to compare yourself with others and always remember the difference you are making when things get tough.