**Sumbal Khan, science trainee**

**Dixons Teacher Training 2019-2020**

I recently graduated from the University of Huddersfield in BSc (Hons) Medical Biochemistry and am now part of the Dixons family as a trainee science teacher. I have always wanted to be a teacher because not only do I enjoy working with children, but I love the idea of being part of a profession that is forever developing. As a teacher, I learn something new about myself or the students every day. My top tip for the application process is be honest. Let your personality shine through. Be truthful about why you think teaching is the career for you and what drives you. What are your values and how do they align with those of Dixons?

Before the start of this course, I was nervous and unsure of the journey ahead. I was constantly reading blogposts written by PGCE students and NQTs about their experiences in their schools and, honestly, the wealth of stories was overwhelming and just added to my nerves. But I was also excited about a new chapter, especially since this was what I had always wanted to do and a huge part of me could not wait to get started.

Once the course started, it really helped that we were given time to see the rest of the cohort. It quickly became evident that I was not alone and that most people were feeling the same way I was so the nerves began to calm down. Centre-based training was provided for the first two weeks to ease us into the world of teaching and give us an insight into what teaching was really about. We were also introduced to the Dixons Trust and their mission. All this helped me feel supported as I knew where I had to start and began to see where I was headed.

The highlight of my training year has been the children I have worked with. There have been laughs and eureka moments. Another highlight has been the journey towards my PGCE and the amazing Dixons staff and students I have met along the way. Though there have been many moments of success, there have also been steep learning curves. The hardest part for me was discovering myself in a classroom and really coming into my own as a teacher. I learnt that it is great to seek advice from other teachers about what works for them but it’s even better to adapt them to suit you, so you develop your own teaching style. My mentor taught me that it is okay to make mistakes and it’s important to learn from them, so we improve and develop. This has helped me to become more resilient and confident with trialling new techniques in the classroom.

My top tip for thriving during the training year is be organised. Stay on top of everything and meet your deadlines by prioritising what is important. Teaching is honestly the greatest job in the world. When I am standing in front of a class, I am teaching more than a topic. I am teaching students to be better people, to be resilient, to be confident and to take pride in everything they do.