

## Brand S (Scott)

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**From:** Sunderland RE (Rachel)  
**Sent:** 03 March 2014 09:55  
**To:** Gunstone JM (John); Reid HJ (Helen)  
**Subject:** FW: Meeting with Teach First on 25th Feb 2014

For info and file

Thanks

Rachel

**Rachel Sunderland**  
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**From:** Mitchell I (Ian)  
**Sent:** 01 March 2014 12:16  
**To:** Sunderland RE (Rachel)  
**Subject:** Fw: Meeting with Teach First on 25th Feb 2014

Mmmmm. Some interesting use of phrases and words here.  
Bottom line. A bespoke school based route through TF was no further forward as a result of the meeting.  
But his next steps as I recall  
Ian

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**From:** James Westhead [<mailto:jwesthead@teachfirst.org.uk>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 01, 2014 12:20 AM  
**To:** Mitchell I (Ian); Tom Hamilton <[Tom.Hamilton@gtcs.org.uk](mailto:Tom.Hamilton@gtcs.org.uk)>; [graham.short@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:graham.short@east-ayrshire.gov.uk) <[graham.short@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:graham.short@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)>; Ken Muir <[Ken.Muir@gtcs.org.uk](mailto:Ken.Muir@gtcs.org.uk)>; [Robert.Davis@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Robert.Davis@glasgow.ac.uk) <[Robert.Davis@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Robert.Davis@glasgow.ac.uk)>; [maureen.mckenna@education.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.mckenna@education.glasgow.gov.uk) <[maureen.mckenna@education.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.mckenna@education.glasgow.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Reuben Moore <[rmoore@teachfirst.org.uk](mailto:rmoore@teachfirst.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with Teach First on 25th Feb 2014

Dear All,

I just wanted to write and thank you all for your time earlier this week. It was enormously helpful for us to have the input and insight from such key figures in Scottish education. I hope that we managed to adequately communicate our commitment to working in partnership with you to provide additional opportunity to young people. I would particularly like to thank Ken for organising and Maureen for hosting. I have penned a brief and not comprehensive summary of our discussions and the actions that came out of them. Please feel free to correct if I have missed anything significant or got anything wrong.

## Summary

The meeting was convened by the GTCS – Ken Muir – to explore what the potential value-add to the Scottish system would be, begin exploring what a Scottish model of Teach First might look like and consider whether it might meet the regulatory requirements of the Scottish system.

There was no conclusive answer to the questions above and a mix of views from the attendees. Teach First clarified its position as an offer to partner with universities and local authorities to co-create a bespoke school-based teacher development route focussed on low income areas to address educational disadvantage and help close the achievement gap.

Maureen McKenna agreed that schools in Glasgow could benefit from leveraging extra resources – both in terms of high potential recruits to teaching, and extra finances such a scheme could bring to the Glasgow school system. She felt there could be a value-add and argued in favour of being ‘open-minded’ and looking at initial teacher training in a different way.

Ian Mitchell for the government and Prof Bob Davis convener of Stec were open to exploring a Teach First school-based model if it could clearly demonstrate added benefit to children but could not yet see the “case for it” ie what is the problem it solved. Teach First sought to explain this as additional benefit – through evidence of closing the gap in schools and in cities like London, the early development of leadership, building a network or community focussed on disadvantage, in addition to helping address some of the acknowledged specific teacher shortages. Prof Davis pointed out there was no shortage of highly qualified teachers in Scottish schools. He acknowledged that Teach First teachers he had met were truly outstanding ...but added that so were his student teachers. Teach First emphasised that a Scottish programme would not be competing with Scottish universities but would be run by them. Bob agreed to communicate this to his fellow teacher educators who had gleaned a different impression in the past. He also suggested a meeting in May together with the GTCS in a smaller forum to work out in more detail what a Teach First PGDE might look like.

On the regulatory side, Ken Muir emphasised that while he thought it would be possible for a TF scheme to work within the rules, that wasn’t the main difficulty. Instead the inter-locking “partnership” nature of Scottish education meant that it would be difficult but not impossible to secure agreement with all stakeholders. This would require a lot of work to progress. A key question to address in future which we didn’t get into would be the funding model and how that could work within the Scottish system.

## Actions;

- Prof Bob Davis & Tom Hamilton to meet with Teach First in May to discuss what a PGDE could look like
- Teach First to develop further the ‘case’ for a programme within the Scottish context and return to this group

Once again – many thanks for your time.

Best wishes,

James

James Westhead  
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