

IStip Update to Schools: NQTs, ICs; and Tutors – Thursday March 19th 2020

We wanted to write and reassure schools, and in particular, NQTs, that induction outcomes are unlikely to be affected by school closures, however open ended these may be. We have been given clear and sensible advice from the DfE on the matter, and our earlier line that closure cannot count as absence holds true. We will give you more details of how this will play out when a hopefully clearer picture emerges in the summer term. We feel there are ways for induction to be ongoing – differently – during the closure period for a large number of schools. The message today is – please do not worry. These are straitened times and schools and staff have been under enormous strain. We do not wish to add to this.

In the shorter term, assessments for full time NQTs are coming due, and in light of the situation, we want to stress the following:

- **We accept forms may be late.**
- We accept parts of the process may not have happened in the past week or so, and up to the end of term.
- Online meetings/phone call meeting count as meetings. These do not have to be face-to-face.
- Any online T&L, any responses and ongoing responses to this extraordinary situation count as evidence, against the Standards, even Part Two (what you are doing and how you are doing it counts as being completely professional in unusual and stressful times).
- If you are self-isolating because you are unwell while schools have been open this does count as absence, but NQTs can have up to 29.5 days of absence before induction is affected.
- **We say again, absence because of school closure is not absence, and induction will not be adversely affected by school closures.**

We are here to answer your queries, or to alleviate concerns, so please do get in touch if you need to.