


The roles that mentors perform in VET in the UK



A. Students


- ▶ Many colleges have schemes for their students using “outside” mentors ie in business or other professions. Help students with employment, presentation and confidence
 - ▶ “Buddy” systems– ie the “buddy” is another student– eg might be a 2nd year student “mentoring a new student
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B. Teachers

- (i) Mentoring new colleagues. A more experienced colleague mentors a new member of staff– ie practical issues, systems, social and professional networks

Teachers–continued

(ii) Mentoring in Initial Teacher Training

- ▶ All teachers on training programmes must have a mentor
 - ▶ The mentor is at the college and is responsible for helping the beginning teacher with the subject specialism (teacher training programmes are generic) and with other aspects of college systems and networks
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- ▶ In addition to regular meetings, the mentor assesses the beginning teacher in observation of teaching
 - ▶ Mentors must be trained
 - ▶ Mentors– and the mentor system– are subject to quality assurance systems
 - ▶ Colleges should have a mentor policy
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