



VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH

## 2021 Idiom Vol 57 No 3 – Call for contributions

### **‘Starting out’**

#### **Early career English teachers**

The focus of this edition of Idiom is on early career teachers of secondary English and, in particular, the practical ways in which we can better support aspiring and beginning English teachers in our schools. What attracts an individual to a career in education, and, more importantly, what keeps them interested in teaching is a key question for all of us in education. The experiences of teachers in these important early years of their teaching careers are clearly crucial in supporting the development of the skills and strategies necessary to give them the confidence and inspiration to keep teaching and progressing as English educators.

We want to hear, firstly, from all those who work with, support and mentor early career teachers as members of the English teaching community. In particular, we invite you to contribute to this discussion by writing an article highlighting your suggestions and strategies for supporting early career teachers of English. You may like to consider the following areas:

- lesson and unit planning
- communicating with parents
- time management: balancing planning, marking and pastoral demands
- setting up literature circles and a text study
- classroom management and student engagement
- formative and summative assessment; rubrics; reporting
- backward design
- teaching reading, writing and different text types
- supporting intervention programs
- technology and online learning
- differentiation: modification and extension
- language in context
- modelling examples
- identifying behavioural problems and links to literacy levels
- understanding and use of data
- supporting EAL students in a mainstream English classroom
- getting an extra or timetable change
- when you need help, who to ask and where to look

We also want to hear from beginning English teachers. We invite you to share your stories and give us an honest insight into your experiences so that we can learn what works, what doesn't, and the ways in which we can better support early career teachers of secondary English in our schools. You may like to consider the following:

- What are the key concerns and challenges for English teachers in their early years of teaching?
- What have been the unexpected, joyful, inspiring moments from your early years of teaching?
- What practical strategies have helped in learning how to teach secondary English?
- What did you wish you knew before commencing as an English teacher?
- How did your pre-service education prepare you for English teaching?
- How can the experience of the early career English teacher be improved?
- How can English faculty leaders support their early career teachers and help them plan for a sustainable teaching career?

We look forward to hearing from you!

The date for submission of articles is **Thursday 30 September 2021**. Please email submissions to [idiom@vate.org.au](mailto:idiom@vate.org.au). If you have any queries or wish to discuss your submission, please email Josephine Smith, Managing editor of Idiom: [idiom@vate.org.au](mailto:idiom@vate.org.au).