

## A warm welcome to the new student teachers... 😊



Hi there, dear young colleagues. Allow me to introduce myself... my name is Ralf Schmidtke. I am in charge of the teacher training in the subject of English, a position I've held since September 2003. I would like to welcome you to our lovely school in Ansbach and provide you with some information on how to get through your two years of teacher training without

taking any major damage... ;-.)

### **1. Where on earth is Ansbach?**

If you are not familiar with the map of Franconia, you might have had to resort to Google Maps to find out where Ansbach actually is located. Don't worry if it looks like it is really out in the sticks – Ansbach is quite a thriving town of about 45,000 inhabitants, and there are plenty of things to see and do there. If you find the time for that, that is... because your training will be somewhat time-consuming. So if you don't live in the close proximity of Ansbach, I'd suggest that you move here. Thereby you'll be able to save a lot of time and really get into the spirit of things with your new colleagues, e.g. on a pub crawl through Ansbach. It is also helpful to live in or near Ansbach because some of the activities of our school will require you to stay at school in the afternoon or in the evening.

### **2. What am I going to do during my training?**

We'll try to get you to work self-confidently and more and more independently in the classes you will be assigned. At first you will be holding single lessons in

different classes, about from the middle of November on you will be assigned your own class. I will attend your lessons and then gradually leave the classes over to you. Your work will include giving marks and grading papers. But that's something we'll take a closer look at together before you really have to do it independently – so don't worry.

You will be given a full list of all we'll be working on in one of your first sessions with me.

You will also, in your demonstration lessons, take responsibility for your teaching; your teaching abilities will be tested in connection with the required theoretical knowledge. You'll have to take three demonstration lessons during your two years of training, two of which will take place at our school. But don't fret – we'll have enough time and you'll get enough feedback before we really get down to business (usually the first round of demonstration lessons is in late December or in January).

### **3. What can I expect from Ansbach Realschule?**

Usually all the colleagues really rally round to support you with advice and understanding during your time at our school. There is a friendly climate among the staff members, most of which are on first name terms with each other. You will also find that most students of our school are quite nice, even if they aren't academic high-flyers.

Almost all our classrooms are equipped with an interactive whiteboard plus computer... so it is not a problem to access the internet in the classroom. There will be an introduction on how to use the whiteboard effectively in the first two weeks of the autumn term. Don't panic – using the whiteboard is actually a lot easier than you might think.

We use GO AHEAD with our students. It doesn't matter if you haven't got your own copy of all the textbooks of GO AHEAD yet; there should be some spare ones left in our library.

I hope these lines could be helpful for you. Of course I know that you will have a lot more questions.... But we can see to them in the course of your training.

So I am looking forward to meeting you. And always remember...

**Teaching is a team sport,  
not a one-on-one competition.**

Best regards,

Ralf Schmidtke