1. We submitted a proposed abstract for a paper to be included in the upcoming special issue on Student Transitions with the Journal of Perspectives in Applied Academic Practice (JPAAP) and this has been accepted, with a full paper (in case study format) requested by end of this month for review.  Here is the abstract:

Initial Teacher Education and student transitions between university and school placements:  mapping practice / theory / support

The focus of this paper is the transitions that students undertaking Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes negotiate as they move between university and school spaces.  Such transitions are a key aspect of university-based programmes involving as they do a minimum of 18 weeks school-based experience. Although such movements are routine, the issue of transition has not to date been a dominant theme of analysis within existing literature. An analysis that surfaces the complexity of negotiations involved in these transitions will hopefully provide insight as to how students might be better supported in future.

The paper draws upon feedback from students returning from placement via a questionnaire and focus groups.  We draw upon socio-material theory (Latour, Stengers, Edwards and Fenwick) as a means of mapping the translations the students are expected to perform in taking up concepts, values and practices encountered in university spaces and then mobilising these within school spaces in their classroom practice.  There is also the transition back to the university space where students are expected to draw upon (narrated) aspects of their experience on placement for discussion and to inform academic assignments.

Having mapped some of the translations that are involved, including the complex movements between theory, narrative and practice, we will then consider ways in which the university might more effectively support students in these transitions.

Key words: student transitions, Initial Teacher Education (ITE), placements, translation, theory

2. In relation to producing resources to support ITE students through the transition to their practice placement and return to university, (having held focus groups and asked returning students to complete a questionnaire) we have identified a number of key themes to address.  These include:

* ​theory into practice,
* ​working with your mentor,
* ​learning management,
* ​things to think about when observing a class etc.

A series of films/podcasts that involve short conversations on the issue in hand are being produced, and these will be available to students through Succeed.