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CANDIDATE INTERVIEW TIPS

1. **Fully prepare:** Research your journey, arrive at least 10 minutes early and dress smartly

2. **Research the School:**
   Understand their ethos: Research the school's values, mission statement and Ofsted report (the UK's school inspection body). This will help you understand the school's priorities and how you can assist with them.

2. **Know the curriculum:**
   Be familiar with the national curriculum for your subject and age group. Understand any specific teaching strategies or policies the school might be using (like a focus on inclusivity or technology integration).

3. **Be prepared for a teaching task or activity:**
   - Many schools ask candidates to conduct a trial lesson or participate in an assessment exercise.
   - Prepare a lesson that's engaging, well-structured and aligned with the curriculum.
   - You might be asked to present a lesson plan. Make sure that your lesson plan has clear learning objectives, engages students and includes strategies to cater for different learning needs.

4. **Classroom management:**
   Be prepared to discuss how you handle classroom behaviour, manage disruptions, and create a positive learning environment. Use examples from experiences that demonstrate your approach.

5. **Prepare for common interview questions:**
   - Why do you want to work there? Be specific about what attracted you to the school.
   - What are your strengths as a teacher? Highlight your key skills and expertise providing real examples.
   - How do you engage and motivate students? Explain your strategies for making lessons engaging.

6. **Demonstrate your knowledge of safeguarding:**
   Safeguarding is a critical part of teaching in the UK. Familiarise yourself with the school's safeguarding policies and be prepared to discuss how you would keep students safe and manage disclosures.

7. **Focus on your subject knowledge:**
   Ensure that you can discuss in-depth content related to the subject(s) that you teach. Be confident, explaining how you would teach challenging topics or adapt to different learning styles.

8. **Reflect on previous experience:**
   Talk about your experiences in the classroom, including any challenges you've faced and how you overcame them. Reflect on what has worked well and what you would do differently in the future.

9. **Demonstrate your ability to work with others:**
   Collaboration is key in UK schools. Expect questions about how you work with colleagues, support staff and parents. Give examples of teamwork, both within the classroom and across the school community.

10. **Be professional and positive:**
    Teachers are expected to be role models. It's important to present yourself professionally, both in appearance and demeanour. Demonstrate enthusiasm for teaching and working with young people.

11. **Prepare questions for the interviewer(s):**
    Asking insightful questions shows that you're interested in the school and your role. Ask about the school's approach to professional development, how they measure student progress and their plans for the future.

12. **Understand the role of a teacher beyond the classroom:**
    Teaching in the UK often involves extra responsibilities such as extracurricular activities, parent meetings and school events. Be prepared to discuss how you would contribute to the school community beyond the classroom.

We wish you the best of luck with your interviews!