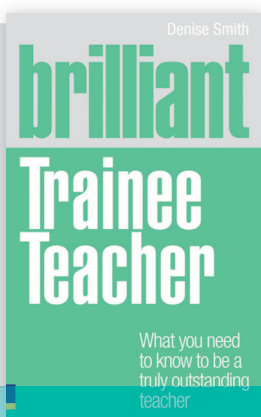


Off the SHELVES

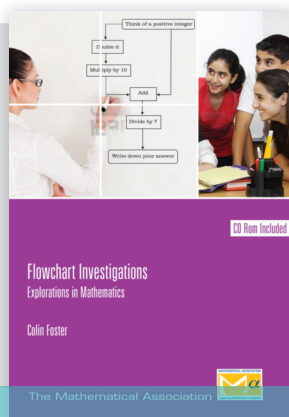
TS picks out five more titles that are likely to offer a great return on an investment of any educator's time...



Brilliant Trainee Teacher

(DENISE SMITH, PEARSON, £12.99)

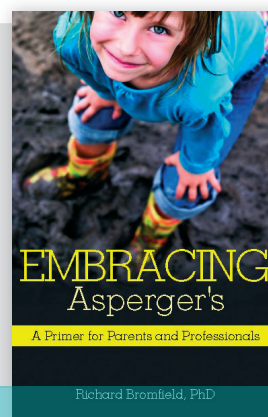
Although, as the title indicates, this book is pitched at those who are contemplating, or in the process of completing, teacher training – and contains a wealth of specific advice on such key topics as choosing the right course and making the most of school experience weeks – there is much in Denise Smith's bright and inspiring overview of the journey towards Qualified Teacher Status that you are likely to find fresh, inspiring and relevant regardless of how much classroom experience you actually have under your belt. The message that excellence is not only desirable, but also genuinely achievable for everyone, could risk coming across as patronising or relentlessly Pollyanna-ish in the wrong hands, but Smith keeps her feet firmly on the ground throughout, remembers her own time as a trainee, and shares her guide to best practice with both humour and easy authority.



Flowchart Investigations – Explorations in Mathematics

(COLIN FOSTER, THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION, £7.95 MEMBERS, £9.99 NON-MEMBERS)

There's a reason why Colin Foster is TS's current mathematics lesson plan provider of choice – his unforced curiosity and enthusiasm for the subject is combined with a distinct clarity of expression that enables him to convey what seems like a whole world of potential numerical exploration in just a few paragraphs and diagrams. It makes sense, then, that he should choose flowcharts – with their visual elegance and textual simplicity – as the hooks on which to hang this collection of 20 intriguing mathematical adventures. Instantly inviting engagement, and naturally allowing students to extend themselves without undue pressure, the charts are presented with questions and prompts that encourage independent investigation, whilst teacher pages for each task draw attention to relevant mathematical concepts, and suggest ways in which learners might be gently guided towards exciting discoveries.



Embracing Asperger's

(RICHARD BROMFIELD, PHD, JESSICA KINGSLEY PUBLISHERS, £12.99)

Anyone looking for a straightforward manual on exactly how to understand, nurture and teach children with Asperger syndrome is bound to be disappointed by this book – because no such thing could exist. As the author of this title makes clear, such youngsters are as different from each other as they are from their peers with no diagnosed neuropsychological disorder, and it's a mistake to use the condition as an all-encompassing definition of who they are. However, given that the odds are largely in favour of most teachers encountering at least one pupil with Asperger's in his or her career (and more likely, several), taking time to research the implications of what this could mean must surely be a wise move. Richard Bromfield offers compassionate insight and realistic advice for parents and educators, in what is perhaps above all, a celebration of human uniqueness.