

Teacher Profile



GATEWAYS
SCHOOL

Mr Sharpe



Mr Sharpe joined Gateways in 2024 as the Head of Sixth Form. He is also the KS5 (Sixth Form) Pastoral Care and Discipline Lead and teaches history and religious studies in High School.

What made you want to be a teacher and have you always been a teacher?

Volunteering to read with students at a local school when I was at university made me realise how rewarding the career could be. I undertook my PGCE after completing my undergraduate degree and started my first teaching job in 1999.

When and how did you become involved in the pastoral side of school life?

I became the first male Head of Year in the 300 year history of Watford Grammar School for Girls in 2002 and also held pastoral positions in my next school before taking on my current post at Gateways.

What kind of things does being a pastoral lead entail and what do you enjoy most?

A pastoral lead role is never predictable, there are different challenges and scenarios each day - it is never boring! It entails supporting pupils when they are having a tough time and on occasions in the past, I have worked with students to correct unwise behavioural choices. I also give advice and support to Sixth Formers to help with their decision making about universities or the workplace etc.

What was your favourite subject when you were at school and why?

History – I found it the most interesting subject and liked the fact you could debate issues.

Do you have any advice for pupils (or teachers) thinking of joining Gateways

Do it! It's a friendly and supportive community where caring for pupils as well as helping them to thrive academically is at the heart of the school ethos. I've really enjoyed my first few months at Gateways.

What is your favourite book?

I really enjoy reading political diaries – possibly the Alan Clark Diaries, those of Woodrow Wyatt or Alistair Campbell, as I particularly enjoy understanding more about recent British political history.

Do you have someone who has inspired you (or is still inspiring you)?

My A Level history teacher and my Year 6 primary school teacher both played an important role in giving me confidence and stretching me academically.

Fun Fact

I spend most weekends attempting (badly) to coach my son's football team and have a new found respect for football managers!