

Teacher Profile



GATEWAYS
SCHOOL

Mrs Holmes



Mrs Holmes joined Gateways in 1998 teaching in both the Prep and High School. She is Head of KS3 Pastoral Care and Discipline and teaches textiles in High School and food & nutrition to Lower 3 (Year 6) and High School pupils.

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

Yes, although I did have a variety of different jobs as a student. I always knew I wanted to work with children but wasn't sure in what capacity and I also considered social work.

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

At the very beginning of my career, I was a form tutor: a role I loved. Getting to know the pupils better, learning what they are interested in and what made them tick helped build good relationships with the pupils. I gained pastoral responsibility quite early in my career. I have been Head of Year 7, Head of Key Stage 3 and Head of Key Stage 4 and also Head of House.

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

No two days are the same. I try to be very organised with my planning of lessons and keep up-to-date with my to-do list as I never know when I might need to support a pupil or make a call home – I can't presume my 'free period' will actually be mine! I regularly support pupils with relationship issues, managing schoolwork, difficulties they might have at home, conducting themselves better and making better behaviour choices....the list is long!

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

I absolutely loved Geography at school but only the physical geography part – I wasn't a fan of human geography. I think it was my Geography teacher that made me love the subject so much. PE and Games were my other favourite subjects. You'd frequently find me playing netball or basketball, running cross country or doing athletics.

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

Gateways is a wonderful place to work and learn; everyone knows everybody. Always try to be kind and focus on building positive relationships with those around you. Those members of staff and pupils who spend time getting to know each other are more likely to have a positive experience with long lasting friendships. When I see old Gatewegians, lots of them are still in touch with each other and are still best of friends, as are lots of members of staff who now retired, meet up regularly.

What is your favourite book?

I tend only to read in the long summer holiday when my head is less full of school stuff. I also have a terrible memory for the books I've read (& films I've watched). I enjoyed *The Salt Path* and *Eleanor Oliphant*. I also love the *Be-Ro* recipe book! I also have a couple of recipe scrap books which once belonged to my grandma and my mother-in-law that have little comments next to recipes they'd tried out. These are treasured possessions.

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

Gosh, tough question! Maybe some of my teachers... there are some I still bump into on occasion and I still can't bring myself to call them by their first name; they will forever remain Mr... & Mrs ...

Fun Fact

As a Yorkshire girl and food teacher, I'm ashamed to say, I am hopeless at cooking Yorkshire Puddings!