

Teacher Profile

Gabriella Berrill - School Direct Trainee



After Graduating Gabriella (Gabbi) Berrill decided to gain classroom experience as an English Teaching Assistant in a secondary school. She already had experience of working with young people through her voluntary work with the RDA (Riding for the Disabled Association) *'I have always worked with children and have been volunteering for the RDA since I was at university. The role is super rewarding and has taught me a lot about how inspiring children can be'*. She found the classroom experience invaluable in helping her to decide if her love of English could be combined with a love of Teaching and Learning in the classroom before she applied for a PGCE.

Gabbi enjoys living and working in Northamptonshire and thinks that it's *'great'*. One of the benefits for her is that *'it is a very diverse area and there is a great partnership between the local schools and primary schools'*. She chose Sir Christopher Hatton Academy, as part of Hatton Teaching School Alliance, as it was firstly a local choice for her, having studied here as a student beforehand, and secondly it also gave her the chance to study in an Outstanding School.

The combination of a familiar environment and the Outstanding Ofsted Grade led Gabbi to choose the school direct route for her PGCE *'the nature of having a school based learning environment alongside the university one was a real selling point for myself'*. Gabbi commented that the course structure can be complex at first and took some getting used to. She found one of the biggest challenges on the course was in changing schools for Phase B of the training. She commented that although it was tough because she was very comfortable in her first school the change *'has made me much more resilient and able to reflect on my own practice more effectively.'*

For Gabbi, the best part of the training has been the ability to see the progress she has made over time, whilst working with lots of different teachers and being able to observe lots of staff. She recommends that trainees *'Experiment, and set your own challenges and targets every week. It can be very easy to forget your accomplishments on a hectic Teaching Course'*

Her top tips for anyone applying would be to ensure that they have good organisational, communication and time management skills to be able to manage the workload effectively. She advises trainees to *'get stuck in to your schools and never turn down free cake or biscuits!'* but also to not forget that there is life outside the school and trainees should make time for their hobbies, and reward themselves for hitting key milestones.

Gabbi is looking forward to the start of her teaching career having secured a position at Sir Christopher Hatton Academy in *'the amazing English Department!'* She sees a clear career path into management, becoming a subject or department lead, and also aims to increase her knowledge and understanding by completing a Masters degree.

For more information on our supportive School Direct training programme please contact us at teachingschool@hattonacademy.org.uk or call Wendy Ingram on 01933 221424 for more information.