

Teacher Profile

Tom Clarke - School Direct Trainee



Tom completed his degree in Creative Writing at the University of Northampton and spent the following year doing odd jobs such as working in retail, copy writing and working in a sorting office.

However, teaching was always something he'd wanted to do, aiming to pass on his love for literature, he comments *'my main aim was to put across my passion for literature to students and help them to enjoy English'*

Tom decided to apply for a school direct course as soon as he had gained more experience working in schools. He chose Sir Christopher Hatton Academy, as part of Hatton Teaching School Alliance, as he felt that the staff and students took real pride in the school, and were friendly and helpful *'as soon as I walked into Hatton and met some of the staff, I knew it was the place I wanted to train. It had such a friendly atmosphere and they were really proud to show me around the school. The students I met were friendly, polite and had a good attitude to learning. My opinion since hasn't changed!'*

He has relocated from Nottingham for the course, following 3 years at University in the Northampton area. He comments *'it has been a big change, but I adapted very easily to life in Wellingborough'*.

During the training course the biggest challenge for Tom has been the workload. He noticed a spike going from his Phase A to Phase B schools. He commented *'it was such a shock simply because the workload sky rockets. I had to work very hard and very quickly to manage my time, but once I had that under control, I got used to it'*. He felt that he would have benefited from having the structure of the PGCE made clear at the start of the course as it can be a bit complicated at times.

In addition to the friendliness and support he has received at Sir Christopher Hatton Academy, the best part of the training for Tom has been in choosing to be on a school-based course as he feels *'that's where all of the real learning is done. There's only so much you can learn at university!'*

Tom is going to use the summer holiday to unwind, but starting from September, he has secured a position as a Teacher of English at Sir Christopher Hatton Academy. His aim for the future is to continue to improve his teaching practice *'I want to be able to teach good lessons continuously and help my students grow academically and personally'*. He would then like to be able to pass on his skills and knowledge to help trainee teachers by mentoring them through their training.

Overall, he has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Sir Christopher Hatton Academy and feels he could not have wished for a better training provider!

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.