

## Brian Gibson - English



Tell us about your route into teaching.

Before applying for the course, I worked in public libraries for a number of years. I really loved the job, it was great being around books for most of the day, but I especially enjoyed the aspects that involved working with young people. With that in mind I applied for a position as a librarian in a high school and got accepted. Working in a high school environment was where I really got the 'bug' for teaching. After talking to some of the staff I applied for the course at Whitley Bay Teaching School Alliance.

What inspired you to be a teacher?

While at school myself as I was influenced by some great teachers and this was consolidated by my time working at a high school. While there I witnessed some inspirational teaching and that combined with having conversations with the students and seeing all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to give them the best experience really inspired me to take the next step and try and be bigger part of that.

Why did you choose Whitley Bay Teaching School Alliance?

I was lucky enough to meet some of the past trainees from the Alliance who were placed at the high school where I worked. They had nothing but good things to say about the course and they seemed really well supported throughout the process. After going to an open day and meeting the really friendly staff I knew that this was the place I wanted to train.

What would you say to anyone else thinking of becoming a teacher?

The training year so far has been a real challenge so make sure it is definitely something you are passionate about. If that doesn't scare you off then go for it! I would make sure you choose a training provide that will give you the support you need for what is a really busy year. Spend some time in a classroom and hopefully you will realise that working with young people is fun, challenging and so, so rewarding.

## Laura Barker- Maths

Tell us about your route into teaching.

I completed my undergraduate degree a year ago and began looking into teaching around this time, but I was unsure which options were available to me. In the year that followed, I worked in industry, whilst also volunteering at an after-school club and attending teaching taster events to discover which training route I wanted to go down. I found this very beneficial in preparing me for my training year, as I had the opportunity to ask any questions before I started and to discover what the year would entail.

What inspired you to be a teacher?

I was inspired to become a teacher because I feel that the role of a teacher utilizes my personal skills and attributes and I want a career I will enjoy. Whilst I love the subject that I am teaching (Mathematics), I also really like having the opportunity to be creative and to help people every day, and I love that each day is different.

Why did you choose Whitley Bay Teaching School Alliance?

Having attended this school and grown up in the local area, I knew that the school's values aligned with my own and that the schools within the alliance are situated in the area that I ultimately want to work in. I also really like that the School Direct route provides more in-school training days than a traditional course, as I get to see a lot of different schools in the area and learn from a variety of teachers, all with different school experiences.

What would you say to anyone else thinking of becoming a teacher?

If you think your personal attributes would make a good teacher, look at gaining some school-based experience and attend any teaching events in your area, so that you can ask any questions and feel prepared before the school year starts. Then, apply!

