

# My journey within OTP

## Katie Noon - Co-head of School (The Fusion Academy)



I originally applied for a course in Travel and tourism but after doing a short period of work experience in a special school, I realised that this was what I wanted to do. Every day was completely different, full of challenges but rewarding.

I undertook the opportunity to complete an apprenticeship to become a Teaching Assistant at Dorothy Goodman school. After the apprenticeship, I became a Teaching Assistant and at each stage my role expanded. I also undertook various other roles such as IT Technician and eventually I became a Class Second standing in when teachers were absent. I was then invited to take my teaching degree which I did part time whilst teaching a class. I was then employed as a qualified teacher. I went on to hold various middle management positions in curriculum overview, data and assessment, and from there progressed to Assistant Head and now I am enjoying my role as Co-head of school at Fusion Academy.

## Sara Green - Teacher (Dorothy Goodman School)

After a change in career & some previous work experience with children overseas

I started at DG as a Learning Support Assistant at the primary site in December 2019, the work was varied and I quickly settled in. After some encouragement from colleagues I applied for a job as a second and was lucky enough to get the job in Atlas class for the new academic year, this proved to be an interesting year with the COVID pandemic but under the positive leadership of my class teacher we pulled together to be flexible in educating the children and proved to be a valuable experience.



As I already had a degree along with the work experience I was gaining I was asked if I had thought about teacher training as existing seconds may be considered for applying for a teachers role. After an interview with both the school and an application to a training provider I started my job as trainee teacher in September 2022 under an apprenticeship scheme at the Richmond base. This allowed me to continue working in the job I enjoy at DG and study alongside to gain my PGCE qualification. I am now working as a teacher at Dorothy Goodman Lubbethorpe base.

## Danielle Beacall - Assistant Headteacher (Dorothy Goodman School)



I have been a part of Dorothy Goodman School for over 11 years now and I am extremely grateful for the opportunities that this school has offered and continue to offer me. From working as an LSA to training as a teacher, from changing Key Stages to being a part of the Wider Leadership Team, new challenges constantly arise and have helped me to further my professional and educational practice.

Being a teacher has always been a lifelong dream but working within a SEND school had never occurred to me until I started volunteering here.

That was back in 2010 and I have never looked back. Striving for the best and knowing what the next step is has always been a priority for me within my work and here at Dorothy Goodman School, I have always felt supported within my own professional development which has led to wider opportunities outside of the school.

The children and young people are what make this job so rewarding and they continue to surprise and inspire me daily. Each day is memorable and individual, just like the pupils here. Yes, times can be challenging but the successes are that more rewarding. This year I have started my new role as Assistant Headteacher for the Primary phase of the school and am really enjoying developing my skills in leadership.