

## About Kate – Secondary School Art Teacher

I studied Art in the Community and Psychology at Roehampton University and then worked as the Design Manager for a London company. One of my friends is a teacher and I quite envied her lifestyle and I was a little fed up with being in front of a computer all of the time – that's not why I studied Art! I guess I'd wanted to be a teacher for a long time. I come from a large family and spent a lot of time with my younger siblings playing schools; we would draw and paint all day and I loved it.

After some time of indecision, I decided to write to the Royal Borough of Kingston, applied for a GTP (Graduate Teacher Programme) place and got my current job. I was really happy when I got this job, as I was about to take a job in retail, it saved me!

As part of my post I run projects for pupils from 11 years to 'A' levels and vocational art. I try and get the pupils involved in community projects too. At present I am also Acting Head of the Art Department while my colleague is on maternity leave.

Our school has a real mixture of kids from different backgrounds, and although they can be difficult at times they are really good kids. It can be quite hard to motivate some pupils at GCSE because the some choose Art thinking it is an 'easy' subject and don't realise the amount of work and effort they have to put in. It's taken some creative thinking and work on my part, but I am very proud to say that Art has achieved the highest A-C GCSE results in our school.

I am very happy here, our school has an excellent Art Department, there is lots of management help and we are attaining good results and that in the end makes it all worthwhile.

My role as Acting Head of the Art Department and my new role, in charge of the school's publicity will give me a chance to experience different aspects of teaching as a profession and who knows where this might take me? Whatever happens I know I will still want to continue teaching in a classroom.

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