



HOULTON
SCHOOL



Our Houlton family...

Teaching Team



Proud to be part of the
Transforming Lives
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Welcome to the Houlton family...

29 April 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

Meet our inaugural teaching family members

I am delighted to introduce you to this brochure, which lets you see and learn a bit more about the teaching staff who will be working with pupils from September.

As you will see, we are incredibly fortunate to have recruited a highly experienced, fully qualified team, all of whom have qualified teacher status (QTS), so that you may be assured that our provision will be world class from day one of opening.

As our school grows, we will add more teachers and subject leaders, but this will be the teaching team for year one.

Most of these colleagues join us formally in September, though they will be working with us over the summer to get ready for pupils' arrival with us, as our building will be handed over to us from *Urban & Civic* (the master developers at Houlton) on 10 August 2021.

We will send out news of our support team, including the Pupil Experience Leader for Y7 and SEND later this term, as we will be launching and recruiting these vacancies very soon.

We look forward to working with you and hope you enjoy finding out a bit more about the team.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael McCulley'.

Michael McCulley

Principal



Principal (ADSL)

Michael McCulley FCCT, FRSA

University of Stirling:

BA English Studies and Expressive Arts

DipEd (QTS) Drama and English

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland:

Licentiate in Acting (Musical Theatre)

Founding Fellow of the Chartered College of Teachers

Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts

Born in Scotland before growing up in Warwickshire, Mr McCulley is an experienced school leader and educational professional. He is a graduate of Expressive Arts and English from the University of Stirling and trained in Acting (Musical Theatre) at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow and enjoyed his early career performing. When his attention turned towards teaching it began at the prestigious all-through Jordanhill School in Glasgow. He has worked in a variety of high-performing urban and rural contexts, including a life-changing opportunity to work with children in Somerset West and its neighbouring township schools with the *Imibala Trust* near Cape Town, South Africa. To this day, he credits this humbling experience with being transformational and informing his educational philosophy of 'equality of opportunity for all':

Education was an emancipation for me; teachers unlocked possibilities and a future I never knew was possible, nor that I deserved. This underpins my aspirations for every child who joins our family at Houlton.

Mr McCulley also spent some years at the Local Authority as a School Improvement Consultant, at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as a Senior National Curriculum Adviser and as a Senior Qualification Development Researcher for the UK Department for Education. An authoritative voice in arts education, he is a founding Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts. Additionally, he has held a variety of voluntary positions of responsibility as Chair of Community and Arts organisations.

Mr McCulley is a strong advocate for the promotion of diversity in education and global citizenship; he has taken groups all over the world as part of their co-curricular education, including visits to the Great Wall of China, language immersion visits to Paris and French châteaux and cultural trips to a number of global destinations, including Austria, Belgium, Italy, Spain and New York City, USA.

More recently, Mr McCulley has been supporting schools in a variety of challenging circumstances and has delivered the NPQSL qualification to aspiring educational leaders. His current focus is on the launch and development of the Transforming Lives Educational Trust's brand new flagship academy – Houlton School.



Vice Principal (DSL)

Chloe Buckenham NPQSL

University of Warwick:

LL.B Law

Innes of Court School of Law:

BVC – Barrister of Law

University of Cambridge:

GTP (QTS) Law

National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership

Miss Buckenham is a highly skilled school leader who brings with her a wealth of experience to Houlton. She is a graduate of Law from the University of Warwick, then went on to the prestigious Inns of Court School of Law where she qualified as a Barrister in 2003. She made the decision to transition into teaching in 2006, qualifying with the University of Cambridge having realised her desire to effect change in education and to be a catalyst for young people to realise their true potential. Miss Buckenham has worked in a number of settings and has taken a lead on projects across the secondary sphere that have pioneered lasting change. She is a firm believer in the value of a globally aware curriculum, in positive behaviour management and in Restorative Justice. She is a strong advocate of Student Leadership, encouraging pupils to have a positive voice across both primary and secondary phases.

Miss Buckenham has travelled extensively and has experience working with schools in Asia and Africa. She has worked with World Class Schools, most recently leading a World Class international accreditation in Uganda, the first of its kind in Africa. Miss Buckenham has led a number of excursions for both staff and pupils to Uganda and her experiences there have inspired her to help young people in the UK to not only understand the privileges afforded to the western world, but to appreciate and strive to reach their full potential. She is a passionate advocate for the importance of the culture in schools and spoke candidly at the SSAT19 Conference on the importance of a character and culture curriculum; her determination to ensure pupils are given equal opportunities to succeed is unashamedly relentless.

Miss Buckenham has supported a number of colleagues as a mentor for the NPQSL as well as delivering CPD on a broad range of school leadership stands across a number of settings. She prides herself in her unyielding positivity and has extremely high expectations. Her current focus is working in close partnership with Mr McCulley to develop and launch TLET's visionary, brand new flagship academy, Houlton School.



Head of Faculty: English & Literacy

Sian Warde

University of Birmingham:
BA Drama and Theatre Studies

Birmingham City University:
PGCE Drama and English with French

Mrs. Warde is an accomplished practitioner who is passionate about delivering quality education to all pupils, regardless of their circumstances. She believes that young people have limitless potential; they are deserving of learning and teaching through which they can explore their personal philosophy and develop their unique voice. Her classroom culture is aspirational, supportive and challenging, meeting individual pupil needs to ensure that pupils can emerge from Houlton School as successful, compassionate and empowered young adults.

In the seven years prior to joining the Houlton team, Mrs. Warde worked in a high performing school in Coventry. There she taught a range of subject areas, including: English Language and Literature, French and Drama. This breadth of experience has combined to inform her pedagogy, which encourages pupils to be engaged, curious and enthusiastic about their learning; she is an advocate of creating curricula which reflect the diversity of (and explores issues faced within) the modern world. This ethos was commended in an independent audit of curriculum planning, in which inspectors were impressed by the programme of study that Mrs. Warde pioneered. She was subsequently commissioned to deliver training in syllabus planning for schools across the city of Coventry.

Mrs. Warde has further conducted research projects into, and delivered training on, areas as diverse as the PHSRE curriculum, mental health, Shakespeare in Action, mantle of the expert and performance art education. This, in addition to her love of reading, her interest in physical theatre (which led her to direct performances at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival) and being a self-proclaimed Francophile (having been bilingual from an early age and taken many pupils abroad to France and Belgium) demonstrates her commitment to life-long learning and to education beyond the classroom.

When not in school, Mrs. Warde spends time with family and credits her young son as the motivation behind her pupils receiving an education as thoughtful and rigorous as she would want for him.



Head of Faculty: Mathematics & Numeracy

Jasmine Etheridge

University of Birmingham:
MSc Mathematics

University of Warwick:
MA Professional Education
PGCE Mathematics

Miss Etheridge is a passionate, creative, and enthusiastic teacher who enjoys sharing her love for mathematics with her pupils. She completed her Master Science in Mathematics at the University of Birmingham and regularly volunteered in local schools to support pupils. Following her degree, she was awarded the *Institute of Mathematics and its Applications* scholarship for teaching and completed her PGCE at the University of Warwick, when she began her teaching journey at Ashlawn School in Rugby. Within her department she has explored best practice within mathematics teaching and designed schemes of learning to develop fluency, reasoning, and depth as well ensuring pupils enjoy learning maths. She has enjoyed creating a positive learning environment, awarding pupils for their effort and perseverance in maths.

Miss Etheridge continued her pedagogical development working on a *Teaching Advance Mathematics* course with the University of Warwick; this then led onto her completing a further Master of Arts in Professional Education, which involved independent research and a project in Mathematical Anxiety and developing strategies to support pupils.

Miss Etheridge also has experience of working within the pastoral teams as a Head of Year for both Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils. She found the opportunity to build strong positive relationships with her pupils vital in these roles as well as incredibly rewarding. She believes pupils deserve respect and understanding within school and strives to ensure they feel heard and supported.

Miss Etheridge is incredibly excited about joining Houlton School and cannot wait to welcome our first Year 7 pupils in September to the Houlton family.



Head of Faculty: Science & Computer Science

Aaron Griffin

University of Newcastle:
BSc Zoology

Newman University:
PGCE Secondary Science (Physics)

Mr Griffin is a highly dedicated science teacher with subject knowledge spanning across a large spectrum of the various science disciplines. He has spent the majority of his educational career within the Transforming Lives Educational Trust at nearby Ofsted Outstanding Ashlawn School.

At Ashlawn, Mr Griffin worked in a highly successful science department as Head of Physics, promoting all aspects of science education to all age groups. He is particularly interested in current research based learning and teaching strategies, and incorporating these within his team. He has mentored many teachers within his department, from trainees to more experienced members of staff and developed their classroom practice to benefit pupils. This has resulted in consistently outstanding outcomes for GCSE and A level, far beyond the national averages. He endeavours to make science education enjoyable, accessible and successful for all pupils.

Alongside the academic qualities that his pupils gain, they have also had opportunities to take part in various extra-curricular activities, such as the CREST award, Royal Society courses and Women in Physics conferences. Additionally, he has many years of experience with international visits, including the popular ski trips and intends on continuing this for pupils at Houlton. Mr. Griffin believes that these opportunities are just as important for the rounded development of children as classroom based ones and strives to ensure that the pupils in his care develop to the best of all their abilities.



Subject Team Leader: Humanities

Jamie Abbott

University of Leicester:

BA History and Politics

PGCE History

National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership

Mr Abbott is a highly successful middle leader, bringing a wealth of experience to the role. He is a graduate of History and Politics from the University of Leicester and has been in the education profession since graduating in 2005, undertaking a variety of different roles ranging from teaching assistant to leading learning and teaching.

Mr Abbott has recently led a department ranked at the top of the league tables for performance in post-16 History teaching by the *British Association of Selective Schools*. Having grown up in Rugby, he is committed to providing a world class educational experience at Houlton School ensuring that local children have the ability to achieve their potential.

Mr Abbott's career has taken in a range of settings, from inner city comprehensives to leading selective and schools. He has most recently taught at a leading independent school in the Midlands. Having successfully led both History Departments and Humanities Faculties, he fully understands the demands of delivering a 21st century curriculum.

Through his previous experience of working with the Institute of Education and Justice to History, Mr Abbotts has led projects on diversifying the wider school curriculum to make sure that it is representative of multi-cultural Britain. He prides himself on offering an educational experience that includes all learners and allows them to fully understand their place in the world as culturally aware citizens.

Mr Abbott is a strong advocate of developing well rounded, confident individuals. Having led a variety of different enrichment opportunities, from sports teams to debating clubs, he understands the value of learning outside of the classroom. He has led successful trips Berlin, the WW1 Battlefields and the USA as well as developing relationships with outside agencies, including the Holocaust Educational Trust, to ensure that a diverse range of voices are heard in the classroom. He truly believes that every child should have the opportunity to broaden their own horizons and understands the vital role that Houlton School will play in this.



Subject Team Leader: Creative

Russell Hill

Wimbledon College of Art, University of the Arts London:

BA Fine Art

Royal College of Art:

MA Sculpture

Birmingham City University:

PGCE Design and Technology

Mr Hill is a skilled teacher of creative subjects, specialising in Art & Design and Product Design. He is a graduate of Fine Art from Wimbledon College of Art and of the prestigious MA Sculpture programme under the guidance of Professor Richard Wentworth CBE at the Royal College of Art. At the time, he appeared in the *Catlin Guide to the 40 most important Emerging Artists in the UK*, and was listed in the Independent's 'Artists to watch', subsequently winning the Annual Catlin Art Prize in 2011.

Mr Hill has worked in a number of settings and has contributed to the cultural development of arts charities, theatres and most recently managing events at the Royal Academy of Arts, prior to entering the education sector. He is a firm advocate of challenging pupils' ideas and encourages creative experimentation.

Gaining significant experience as a Visiting Lecturer at the Brit School, University of the Arts, London and Warwickshire College, Mr Hill was then keen to further develop his professional practice within secondary education. Training with Birmingham City University whilst teaching full time, he was part of a fast-paced, provocative creative department and was instrumental in introducing new technologies, thus broadening the curriculum and establishing innovative enrichment projects, such as 3D printing, photography and sculpture.

Mr Hill has an innate passion for the power of the arts to effect change and believes that every child has the potential to contribute to the cultural landscape of our communities, and has been invited to contribute to a TEDx event on this; he is a keen advocate for synthesising academic progress with pastoral guidance and has mentored pupils throughout their school career. Most recently, he has undertaken training in restorative practice, which is a cornerstone of Houlton School's approach to positive relationships at school.

Mr Hill's current focus is creating a department that acts as a creative sandbox, where pupils learn, grow and foster critical faculties around current affairs, cultural happenings and social issues; together, we'll grow the emerging and exciting future creative outputs of our Houlton family.



Subject Team Leader: Modern Languages

Matthieu Raffy

University of Toulon, France:

*Licence en Langues, Littérature et Civilisations Étrangères avec spécialisation en Langue Anglaise
Master en Arts, Lettres et Langues avec Spécialité en Français Genèse Littéraire Imaginaire*

Instituto Cervantes, Spain:

Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera

University of Oxford:

PGCE Modern Languages

Born and bred in the South of France, Mr Raffy is an indefatigable languages teacher, striving to unlock a wealth of opportunities for his pupils through languages. He is a graduate of the University of Toulon, France, and spent his Erasmus year abroad at Exeter University, where he fell in love with Great Britain and its beautiful countryside. Giving up the French riviera for the English one, he remotely completed his Research Master's Degree in French Literature, focussing on myth and utopia; he then went on to complete his DELE Diploma in Spanish with the Cervantes Institute, while working as a Foreign Language Assistant in Dawlish, Devon. This is where Mr Raffy developed a passion for teaching languages in secondary schools in England, prompting him to complete his teacher training at the University of Oxford. During his training, he focussed on *Content and Languages Integrated Learning (CLIL)*, as an approach to teaching foreign cultures, arts and civilisations through the lens of languages. He has since shared his cross-curricular practice with PGCE tutors and trainee teachers at the University of Oxford.

Before joining the Houlton family, Mr Raffy worked as a languages teacher in a large, successful secondary school in Oxfordshire. Not only does he strive to get the best out of his pupils, he is also committed to the training of new entrants to the profession, having previously worked with Oxfordshire's SCITT training programme as a mentor and visiting tutor, and joining the interviewing panel for the University of Oxford's PGCE courses.

Mr Raffy values highly co-curricular visits, which he sees as life-changing opportunities, as he first visited England on a school trip himself. He has organised and run several trips abroad during his career, ranging from day trips to the University of Oxford, to foreign exchanges with a school in Brittany, and trips to Spain and France. He aspires to give his pupils the chance to learn and use languages beyond the classroom,

I am very excited to join Houlton School, to be at the foundation of a world-class, international school, and I can't wait to share my passion for languages with our first year group, inside and beyond the languages classroom... À bientôt ! ¡Hasta pronto!



Teacher of Physical Education & Mathematics

Abbie Hartfield

Sheffield Hallam University:

BA Physical Education and School Sport

University of Nottingham:

PGCE Physical Education

University of Plymouth:

TSSST Secondary Mathematics

Miss Hartfield is an enthusiastic and innovative practitioner. She is a graduate of Physical Education and School Sport from Sheffield Hallam University and joined the teaching profession with a desire to inspire future generations, enabling them to reach their full potential.

Following on from Miss Hartfield's undergraduate degree, she embarked on her training year at the University of Nottingham gaining invaluable experiences in variety of secondary schools, as well as a SEND school. This year built the foundations for the beginning of her professional career in teaching.

Miss Hartfield's career began at a well-established rural secondary school in the local area, which offered opportunities such as a house lead position to promote and enhance the school's rewards system, celebrating pupils' successes.

Promoting success is a strong passion of Miss Hartfield's, as she believes that every pupil should have equal opportunities to become the best version of themselves and be rewarded for their accomplishments. Whilst her initial subject specialism lies in Physical Education, her teaching experience encompasses Mathematics as well, for which she went on to undertake an additional qualification through the University of Plymouth.

From an early age, Miss Hartfield has worked within the educational system undertaking an array of responsibilities across a broad range of age groups, which has enabled her teaching to be adaptable and innovative. In her early career, she attained numerous professional qualifications to enrich her subject specialist knowledge, which allow her to maintain high quality teaching across two departments. Miss Hartfield is eagerly awaiting the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead on this new and exciting journey at Houlton School.



Teacher of Music

Thomas Baidoo

Coventry University:
BSc Music Technology

Birmingham City University:
PGCE Music

Originally from South East London, Mr Baidoo embarked on his teaching career in 2018 after graduating with in Music Technology from Coventry University. Upon completion of his PGCE at Birmingham City University, he began his career at one of our partner schools, Ashlawn School, and he will work across both Ashlawn and Houlton.

His rapport with pupils is second to none. In particular, he prides himself on his work as a 'learning mentor' and feels that his influence and advice has had a positive impact upon a number of pupils' mental health and attainment in recent years.

He also aims to challenge and inspire pupils through his dedication to co-curricular activities. His passion for guitar led to the creation of a club where pupils of all years would come to play together, as well as successfully running a music technology club that has aided in a number of school performances such as: *Fame* and *Rock of Ages*. Leading by example, Mr. Baidoo's 'tech club' enables pupils to gain experience in setting up and running the technical equipment required in the production of the shows, further enhancing his pupils' knowledge and abilities. He is, therefore, very much looking forward to working with the pupils in Houlton's professional Radio Studio.

As a personal hobby, Mr Baidoo enjoys spending his spare time producing music with various undiscovered artists across the country. Alongside this he is an avid musician and often attends music events both for enjoyment and to perform.

Within Houlton School, his aim is to create a new generation of music composers, artists and producers. His current focus is on the launch and development of a holistic music curriculum, 'catering for all' which will inspire and incept new and innovative concepts. Mr Baidoo has a 'can do' attitude and is confident in his ability to ensure pupils' motivation through his pastoral focus.



Head of Faculty: Inclusion (SENDCo, ADSL)

Rebecca Cooper

University of Northampton:
BA History

University of Warwick:
PGCE History

Mrs Cooper is an experienced school leader with a passion for inclusive education and meeting the needs of all learners. She graduated from the University of Northampton in 2006 with a BA (Hons) in History before embarking on a career in property law. Experience of volunteering in a variety of school settings made her realise her passion for education and working with young people. She went on to study for her PGCE at the University of Warwick in 2009. Mrs Cooper also completed her school-based training at Ashlawn School and, after achieving QTS in another local school, was invited back to Ashlawn as a history teacher. Mrs Cooper has successfully undertaken a number of leadership roles during her 11 years at Ashlawn, including Curriculum Leader for History.

During this time Mrs Cooper was approached to provide temporary maternity cover for the role of SENDCo at Ashlawn, and it was this experience that ignited her interest in inclusive learning, propelling her in her pursuit of providing high quality education for all learners. After 10 transformational months, which happened to fall during the 2015 application of national SEND reforms, she was promoted to the Head of Faculty for Learning Development at Ashlawn School. Over the past five years, Mrs Cooper has led a large department dedicated to supporting and raising the achievement of pupils with SEND. Recently she has played a pivotal role in developing strategies for accessibility across the curriculum, working closely with a number of professionals and practitioners.

A mother of two young boys, her personal connection to the importance of transition in ensuring young people and their families and carers are at the very heart of the SEND process, is undoubtable. She is thrilled to be joining the Houlton family, alongside her existing role within the trust. She sees this as an opportunity to realise her vision for high quality, inclusive education which allows opportunities for all to excel.



Principal: Michael McCulley FCCT, FRSA

© August 2021 Transforming Lives Educational Trust

The Transforming Lives Education Trust (TLET) is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales 07515832. Registered Office: Ashlawn Road, RUGBY, Warwickshire, CV22 5ET. Tel: 01788 593 108. e: info@tlet.org.uk w: www.tlet.org.uk

Reproduction, storage or translation, in any form or by any means, of this publication is prohibited without prior written permission of the publisher, unless within the terms of the Copyright Licensing Agency. Excerpts may be reproduced for the purpose of research, private study, criticism or review, or by educational institutions solely for educational purposes, without permission, provided full acknowledgement is given.

 Proud to be part of the
Transforming Lives
EDUCATIONAL TRUST