

Woodlawn Post 16 staff Biographies



Glen Whalley (*academic year 2016-17*)

Assistant Head Teacher – *Lead for Post 16*

My teaching career began in a mainstream in West Yorkshire where I taught Design Technology (Systems, Resistant Materials, Food technology and Graphics) and held roles such as Head of Department, Assistant Head of Year and Assistant Head Teacher. As a family we moved to the North East in June 2007 where I remained in mainstream until November 2011. In November 2011 I was fortunate enough to secure a teaching role at Woodlawn realising my real passion was in working with those with SEN. My role as Assistant Head enables me to help to shape the future direction of the school, and ensure that all pupils in our school have access to outstanding provision to meet their individual needs.

At Woodlawn as well as teaching Maths, Design Technology and Geography as a member of SLT I am lead for Post 16, Designated Safeguarding lead and responsible for Outcomes (Achievement).

Outside work I am passionate about football, supporting Middlesbrough Football Club and coaching my son's teams at grass routes level.

Ian Saunders (*academic year 2016-2017*)

Teacher – Post 16

I started my teaching career 20 years ago and initially worked in a large junior school in South Tyneside and worked across the Key stage 2 year groups. After spending a number of summers volunteering for a national charity that provided holidays for pupils with additional needs I realised that my passion within teaching was for working with pupils with Special Needs.

I started working in Woodlawn School in 2004. Initially when I started at Woodlawn I taught in Key Stage 1 and 2. I have also been a class teacher in Key Stage 3 and 4 where I taught all subjects and led swimming and PE across the school for a number of years. I have a real passion for developing pupil's skills beyond the core curriculum and have been able to offer pupils a range of opportunities to extend their opportunities beyond the school gate. This has enabled me to take pupils on a number of different residential settings across the North and further afield.

I have enjoyed offering Forest Schools to our pupils and in Post 16 we also offer the pupils the Duke of Edinburgh Award. I love teaching the pupils in post 16 and the curriculum we offer allows us to challenge and support our pupils in many community settings. I am proud of the work our team does to ensure our pupils are able to move on to settings beyond Woodlawn which continue to challenge.

Heike Hawel (*academic year 2016-2017*)

6th Form Tutor

My teaching career began in a mainstream comprehensive School in Durham where I taught Design and Technology (Resistant Materials, Engineering, Product Design and Graphics). I changed schools when I moved to Newcastle and taught in a High School for another 12 years. I discovered Woodlawn after doing some supply work here and loved the personal approach and how the staff and students cared for each other. After teaching in a range of SEN schools throughout Newcastle and North Tyneside it was clear to me that this was a career I wanted to pursue further. I was fortunate to be offered a post as 6th Form Tutor at Woodlawn in September 2015 and have since enjoyed every minute here. I love to see the students grow in confidence during their time in the 6th form and our team does a brilliant job in preparing them for what is ahead after their time at Woodlawn.