



Biography – Andrea Tonks

Andrea began teaching in 1998 as an NQT at Aldbrough Primary School under the Headship of Michael Loncaster. In 2000, Andrea secured a teaching post at Molescroft Primary School where she taught in Key Stage 2 for a number of years. Andrea took over leadership of maths in the school in 2001 and became a Leading Maths Teacher for the Local Authority in 2002. In 2004, Andrea became Y3/4 Coordinator at Molescroft and in 2006 was promoted to Assistant Head.

Andrea was awarded a secondment with the Local Authority as a National Strategies Maths Consultant in 2009 until the summer of 2011 when she returned to her role at Molescroft Primary.

In March 2012 Molescroft Primary was designated as a National Teaching School, the first in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Andrea began work as the Teaching School Manager in September 2012.

Within her role as Teaching School Manager and assistant Head at Molescroft, Andrea manages the School Direct Initial Teacher Training Programme, a diverse catalogue of CPD that is offered to schools, the designation and deployment of a team of Specialist Leaders of Education and leads on a number of school to school support projects.



Biography – Carol Tomkinson

Carol has had a varied and successful career in a broad range of education settings within two educational authorities. She was appointed as Head Teacher at Keldmarsh Primary School in September 2007. Carol had the opportunity to appoint a new leadership team and in a short time moved the school from satisfactory to good. The school has sustained this good judgement in all areas with elements of outstanding: behaviour and safety in April 2013.

Keldmarsh Primary remains a popular choice of school and has been oversubscribed for a number of years. It has a reputation for high quality teaching and learning.

Carol has worked with primary teachers and Head teachers in a range of contexts. Her particular expertise includes creating a learning culture, pupil progress, staff development and wellbeing and improvement planning. She is motivated to provide the highest standards, made possible by her excellent evaluation and reflection skills. She has been appointed an LLE in January 2017 and has had the opportunity to support a school and a number of Head teachers whilst in this role.



Biography – Chris Bullough

Chris has spent the past 19 years working within the East Riding, 14 of which have been as part of senior leadership teams. He is now in his ninth year of headship, and is currently based at Walkington School on the outskirts of Beverley.

Chris has extensive experience of system leadership, and was among the first cohort of LLEs to be accredited in the East Riding. He has supported a range of schools across the area, and has particular interest in leadership development and coaching, mentoring newly appointed Heads, and strategic whole school planning.

Biography - Debbie Chadwick

Garton's latest Ofsted inspection in October 2014 was judged to be Outstanding and Barmby Moor recently had a Section 8 inspection and remains Good.

In order to develop the above the school has initiated an excellent training programme for all staff, linked to the SSES, School Improvement Plan and Performance Management.

The training programme focuses tightly on; quality first teaching, thematic curriculum knowledge, tracking children and introducing provision which has led to improvement in attainment and attitude.

The School Council is very strong and has helped to develop the curriculum and extra curricular activities, policies and the outdoor environment. They have also helped to carry out induction for new pupils and staff.

Debbie's leadership strengths relate particularly to working in challenging circumstances:

- creating a clear and stimulating vision
- building the school's sense of pride and pupil engagement
- developing leadership teams to deliver improvement
- creating data analysis systems
- strengthening teaching and learning
- effective monitoring and self-evaluation
- engaging and communicating with parents and carers.



Biography – Jo Ledingham

Jo is currently the Headteacher of Brandesburton Primary School, a role which she thoroughly enjoys and feels privileged to carry out. Jo, alongside her colleagues, aims to create a happy, caring and co-operative school community that celebrates learning in all its forms. She sets out to inspire and engage others in the school's journey of success.

Jo has taught in both KS 1 and 2 in various schools and joined Skirlaugh C.E Primary School in 2004 as the Deputy Headteacher and Y6 class teacher.

For two years, Jo had the opportunity as a Teaching and Learning Consultant for the local authority, to work alongside a variety of schools and gained a vast amount of experience whilst doing so.



Biography – Kris Henderson

Kris was appointed Head of Hutton Cranswick CP School in July 2014. The school was graded as RI in May 2013, with issues with staff and the quality of learning in some areas. In May 2015, the school was graded as ‘Good’. Despite overseeing rapid changes, the leadership in the school was deemed to be dynamic and determined but still resulting in a very high level of staff morale – developing relationships is where Kris perceives the biggest impact in turning the fortunes of any school. The school now employs three SLEs who are working for Riding Forward supporting other schools.

Kris has worked in a variety of schools and roles. Starting as PE and Science Coordinator at Swinemoor Primary, Kris moved to five-form entry Driffield Junior School as assessment coordinator, leading to Assistant Head and Deputy Head responsibilities, and then becoming Acting Head in September 2013.

Kris was appointed as Acting Executive Head of Wilberfoss C of E Primary in September 2016, with the school having significant turbulence and with some of the worst results in the Local Authority (21% RWM). The school was graded outstanding in 2012, but declining results over time and turbulence in leadership prompted HMI to visit in April 2017, only 6 months after taking up the role. The work that Kris had overseen was deemed significant enough to still grade the school as a good school, with Kris leading on the ERSIP school to school support through Hutton Cranswick and tackling underperformance robustly whilst still building on staff morale, which was very low in the September.

Kris’ focus is always on pupil progression in its widest form (e.g. socially, emotionally, academically), with a particular strength in working with children with behavioural difficulties. Kris’ leadership strengths include managing change, developing staff and utilising the resources the school has to generate the best outcomes for everyone.



Biography - Sue Thackray

Sue is an experienced and very effective primary head teacher, with particular expertise within early years and Key Stage 1. Her leadership of a large (3 form entry) infant school was recognised as a key strength in their last (October 2014) Ofsted inspection where the school was judged to be securely good in all aspects and also in their SIAMS (Church School Inspection, March 2015) where they were judged outstanding in all areas. Sue also has successful experience in leading a small rural primary school.

Credited with an excellent track record in managing change to effect improvement and with leadership style very much focused on a proactive and hands-on approach, Sue has a very sound knowledge of the curriculum and an in-depth understanding of effective learning. Her school is characterised by an enquiry-based approach where children are regarded as active learners in a well-structured and stimulating learning environment. She has a strong pedagogical understanding which is embedded effectively in practice throughout the school.

Sue has a very good understanding of pupil achievement data, and has developed a very effective systems for tracking progress in order to ensure children make consistently good or better progress. The link between classroom based assessment and whole school progress profiles is a particular strength of the school.

Within school, Sue has some very effective senior and middle leaders with particular strengths in safeguarding, early years, science, maths, guided reading and phonics, SEN and RE. During her time at Driffield she has significantly strengthened the Governing Body to ensure it is an effective part of school leadership.

The Church School Status and links to the Diocese are very important and the curriculum and ethos are driven by Christian Values and Spirituality.

As a school they effectively support and train NQTs, teaching students and child care students.

The school believes that promoting an excellent education for all children has to be a collaborative process and not something that can be done in isolation. They pride themselves on ensuring high quality CPD, focused on clear areas for improvement, to give the very best outcomes. Much of this is carried out in collaboration with other schools to ensure the best value for money and the highest outcomes. Several members of staff have been involved in research projects which have significantly enhanced the quality of teaching. Sue successfully completed a Master of Education in Early Years when teaching in North Yorkshire.



Biography - Michelle Bell

Michelle has have worked for the Local Authority for the last 25 years. 18 of them at Drifffield Infant School where she has held a variety of roles including Deputy Headteacher, Acting Headteacher, SENCO, Assessment Lead, English Lead and Computing Lead. During this time she worked for the LA supporting Private and Voluntary Early Years settings.

Michelle then took up her first Headship in 2012 at Beeford CE (VC) Primary School and two years later became Executive Headteacher for both Beeford and North Frodingham Primary School; a role that she absolutely loves. Michelle is so proud of all that her team has achieved and has led Beeford from RI to Good and maintained a Good judgement for North Frodingham.

She also spent two terms leading Sigglesthorpe CE (VC) Primary School by request of the Local Authority and the Diocese of York as they moved from Special Measures to Academy Status.

Michelle's strengths are building successful staff teams, creating positive ethos, working with Governors and Federation. She considers all schools to be learning communities and is dedicated to developing the whole child, staff CPD, parental engagement and student teachers.

OFSTED stated that

'The executive headteacher provides highly skilled leadership. Her determination to improve the school has inspired the staff and governors to improve the quality of teaching and pupils' achievement. Planning for improvement is reviewed robustly to ensure continuous and future improvement '.

Michelle is really looking forward to working with other schools and sharing, celebrating and collaborating.



Biography – Alison Tadman

Alison has worked in the East Riding for 28 years, starting at Drifffield Junior School as a NQT, where she taught across the age range and worked as a Leading Teacher for mathematics.

Currently Headteacher at New Pasture Lane Primary School in Bridlington, the school has sustained Good OFSTED outcomes and become a popular choice being oversubscribed year on year. This she believes is due to the focus on good teaching and learning and the fostering of high levels of engagement from the children through a vibrant curriculum.

Alison has led school to school improvement as part of the ERSIP programme and hosted training for teachers across the East Riding focusing on a range of subjects including SEND interventions and closing the gap.

Following the schools success at the TES Pupil Premium awards she has carried out three Pupil Premium reviews across several educational authorities.

Particular areas of interest include; creating a learning culture, closing the gap for Pupil Premium children and the provision of a broad and creative curriculum.



Biography – Linda Laird

Linda started teaching in the East Riding in 1987 and has remained within the authority ever since. Before becoming a senior leader she taught in both Bridlington and Driffield and has taught in all KS2 year groups, but predominantly year 6. She has led Maths, Art and was SENCo for 4 years; with a particular interest in Dyslexia, Linda gained the Dyslexia Institute Diploma which she believes helped shape the way she taught thereafter.

As a deputy head in Willerby, Linda once again held the SENCo role, was maths lead (and a leading maths teacher for the authority) and was head of year 6. She gained valuable experience in this role and after 4 years became Headteacher at Preston Primary School where she stayed for a very happy 9 years. Following this Linda became Headteacher at Hornsea Primary School, a much larger school in a very different context. After 4 years she ‘squared the circle’ by becoming Headteacher at her current school, Driffield Junior School (a very large school with over 500 pupils), where she had taught for almost 9 years earlier in her career.

Her collaborative leadership approach has led to Linda having an excellent track record of spotting and developing potential in others, and many of her staff have gained promotion as a result.

With her continued interest in SEND, Linda works closely with her current SENDCo, Nurture and Pastoral team to provide a highly inclusive and nurturing environment for children with a range of needs. Driffield Junior School has outstanding provision for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties which includes a Nurture Room and a full time ELSA facility.

Keen to share her passion for education, Linda trained as a NPQSL and NPQML facilitator and delivers training on behalf of Inspiring Leaders. She particularly enjoys supporting other Headteachers and is currently a mentor to a new Headteacher, having mentored many other colleagues over the past few years.

Linda represents town schools on the ERSIP committee, sits on the Fair Access Panel, is an active member of the Driffield and Wolds Partnership of Schools and is a Governor at a small, rural primary school.

With her 18 years of Headship experience across both primary and junior schools, Linda has a great deal to offer in terms of support to other school leaders but her particular interests lie in staff deployment and development, behaviour management, nurture development and parental engagement.



Biography – Laura Wallis

Laura has worked within schools in the East Riding since 2004. Before joining St Mary's Primary in Beverley, she taught in a small, rural primary school and a large junior school. She has taught in every year group within the primary phase from EYFS to Year 6 and has experience of teaching mixed-age classes and leading a range of subjects, including English, MFL, Music and Computing. Laura has held a variety of leadership positions including Year Group Leader, Key Stage Leader, Assistant Headteacher and Acting Headteacher. She was appointed as the permanent Headteacher of St Mary's in 2018.

Since becoming Headteacher at St Mary's, Laura has led the school through two successful inspections. The school was judged to be 'Good' in its June 2018 Ofsted Inspection and an 'outstanding' judgement was given for Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare. In the school's SIAMS Inspection in 2019, the school was awarded an 'Excellent' judgement, becoming the first school within the York Diocese to achieve the excellent rating.

As Headteacher, Laura seeks to provide consistently strong, positive and supportive leadership and she invests heavily in her relationships with all members of the school community. Laura is committed to supporting all staff to develop professionally and finds this aspect of leadership particularly enjoyable and fulfilling.

Laura's leadership interests and strengths include working with stakeholders to develop a clear vision and ethos based on strong, shared values; the creation of a broad, rich curriculum which prioritises the development of the whole child; improving performance through strengthening teaching and learning and fostering staff and pupil wellbeing.