

“NO TWO DAYS ARE EVER THE SAME!”



ISABELLA RIAT, PRIMARY TRAINEE

Having gone to university with the intent of graduating and heading into teaching instead, I fell into marketing. Some 20 years later, I realised I preferred the mentoring and training side of the job. An opportunity to live abroad gave me the perspective and courage to make the change.

Working first as an LSA opened my eyes to the reality of the classroom. Much like working for a marketing agency, the job is creative, fast-paced and ever-changing. No two days are ever the same, and when you think you've mastered something, someone throws a curveball at you. Added to this, there are multiple stakeholders to juggle. What is different, and all the more rewarding, is the 30 amazing individuals you get to work with daily, especially when you get those little moments of wonder when something you have said or done has sparked a love of learning.

The support Xavier Teach SouthEast has given us, together with the structured course, has been fantastic. The course is carefully planned to build knowledge and confidence in incremental steps, and the training we have received from subject specialists has been thoroughly comprehensive and invaluable. The GPS element of the course dovetails with and complements the PGCE, allowing us to grow and test out our pedagogical knowledge in the classroom.

The placement is primarily classroom-based, split between KS1 and KS2, so there is plenty of much needed practical experience. There are also opportunities to visit secondary schools and specialist centres that offer a broader perspective. Most importantly, our course tutors are with us every step of the way, and nothing is too much trouble. They are constantly adapting and tailoring our training experience to best suit our needs and understand the demands of the course. As a career changer, I felt that my skills and experience were valued and, since my training, I have had opportunities to utilise these even more.

Plus, there is an extensive support network. As well as our in-school mentors, we have a pastoral care mentor and a tight-knit group of fellow students to lean on so we are supported from all sides.