

Tuesday 10th – Wednesday 11th September 2024

Biographies



Cassey Benito

Cassey is the Head of Programmes and Partnerships at High Performance Learning and has 5 years' teaching experience in Business Studies and Human Resources within Higher Education. She obtained her Masters Degree in Public Administration at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa in 2022. Cassey has a great passion to solve problems and implement improvements and transformation. She enjoys politics and inter-collaboration on contemporary issues such as globalisation between various countries.

Cassey has written an editorial for the Cape Times Newspaper in 2020 titled "Drinking from the deep trough of rampant municipal corruption".



Natasha Carlton

Natasha is one of the Assistant Headteachers at Albany Academy, overseeing Teaching and Learning. She teaches GCSE Chemistry, and serves as the HPL Lead for the school. She began her career as a science teacher, progressing to Head of Physics, Second in Science, and Science faculty leader before assuming her current leadership role.



Ruth Chandler

Ruth has been teaching for 17 years and has worked at Chorley New Road Primary Academy for the last 14 years. She is the Assistant Head, and leads on Teaching and Learning across the school. She has been HPL Lead in school since the start of their HPL Journey in September 2020. She works in a Year 2 class and forms part of the English Team. She also has experience of supporting trainee teachers and ECTs.



Sadie Cordingley

Sadie is currently Vice Principal at Alder Tree Primary part of the White Rose Academies Trust. This is her third year at Alder Tree but she has worked as a senior leader in schools since 2012. The main responsibility over the years has been teaching and learning under Quality of Education; this has included leading on inclusion and behaviour. Growing great teachers has been the main focus of Sadie's work. Most of her time in schools has been in socially deprived areas as she is passionate about ensuring every child has a good quality education and knows that part of this is raising aspirations. Alder Tree Primary is now in its fourth year of the HPL programme and they believe there is room at the top for everyone.



Natalie Hansen

Natalie's teaching career began over 20 years ago, when she accepted her first position as a primary school teacher. From the outset, she tried to connect with her students, fostering a warm and inclusive classroom environment. Her teaching centres on the belief that every child has the potential to succeed, and she is dedicated to helping each student discover their unique strengths.

Throughout her career in junior school, she has taught various years but mainly in Year 6. She tries to use her arts background to be creative in the classroom that incorporates hands-on activities, technology, and real-world applications, making learning engaging and relevant. Her commitment to professional development has led to attend numerous workshops and CPD opportunities, where she continually seeks new strategies to enhance her teaching. Parkhill Junior School has just achieved world-class status and she is looking forward to their next steps on this journey.



Sile Hayes

Sile is an Assistant Head at Calday Grange Grammar School on the Wirral. Her role is focused on self-evaluation and consistency across the school. She works closely with their heads of faculty and subject leads to develop their HPL roadmap and support colleagues in building their confidence in reinforcing these key skills with their students and other stakeholders.



Joanna House

Joanna has been teaching English for 18 years, in London, Sydney, Bath and now Cornwall. Two of those schools are girls only, which is something she is passionate about.

In London, she was Deputy Head of English in a Co-ed state school; then taught IB (English & TOK) along with HSCs in Australia in a very high performing independent girls' school. Having moved back to the UK after 6 years in Sydney, she taught in Bath (in another independent school) and then moved to Cornwall (THS).

She is passionate about teaching and learning in all areas, not just her subject/discipline, and really believes that HPL is the way all schools should be teaching. It aligns with her own values and pedagogy; the skill of being able to apply the knowledge learned (whether an adult or young student) and to be flexible in your thinking (at any age) is certainly what every educator should be promoting.



Lorraine Hunter

Lorraine has 30 years' experience in Finance working across industries and financial functions ranging from heading up Financial Planning for a Private Bank to Head of Internal Audit at Carey Group.

She is currently the Chief Operating Officer at High Performance Learning. She now works with SME's bringing all her commercial and financial experience together, to instil and improve financial discipline and understanding, and making commercial business decisions that she finds hugely rewarding.

Career highlights:

Citibank heading up an FP&A function within both the Asset Management and Private Banking arms.

Carey Group Head of Internal Audit and Assurance, working within a Transformation Team on improving finance and systems improvement.



Elizabeth Husband

Elizabeth studied English Literature and Education BA (Hons) before completing a PGCE to become a secondary teacher of English. Having worked in schools in the West Midlands for the first 14 years of her career, relocation brought her to Northampton in 2009, when she secured a position at Caroline Chisholm School. Elizabeth is now a Vice Principal with responsibility for teaching and learning. Elizabeth has worked as part of a leadership team whose remit was to secure World Class School accreditation in October 2021 and reaccreditation in May 2024. She is proud to be working at a school that is a member of The Fellowship of World Class Schools and is excited to be part of the next phase of the HPL journey within her school and beyond.



Sonia lafrate

Sonia is the HPL lead at Sacred Heart High School, Hammersmith, as well as being Head of Modern Foreign Languages. She teaches French and Spanish. She has worked in four different secondary schools. Before doing her PGCE, she worked as a TEFL teacher for three years. She worked at Bentley Wood High School for Girls in Stanmore for a year. She worked at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School in Barnet for twelve years where she was Head of Spanish and Second in Department for most of her time there. She then joined St Michael's High School in Garston as Subject Leader of the Modern Foreign Languages department. She joined Sacred Heart High School in September 2016 as Head of Modern Foreign Languages. She has been involved in both the HPL accreditation in June 2000 and the most recent reaccreditation in June 2024.



Barbara Langford

Previously a director of a ship operating company, Barbara retrained as a secondary Mathematics teacher. Her first teaching job was at Trinity College in Croydon where she became Deputy Head of Mathematics. Barbara has spent the last 12 years at Westbourne House School in West Sussex as Deputy Head – Academic where she initiated and embedded the HPL philosophy across the school. Over her career, she has inspired pupils from Nursery to A-level in the joy of maths and mathematical thinking.

Barbara is passionate that mathematics should be accessible to all pupils and is author of a light-hearted 13+ revision book. Her guiding vision is that education should encourage creativity and curiosity in all pupils.



Amy Lilley-Stewart

Amy is the Director of Professional Learning at High Performance Learning. Amy has worked in the education sector both nationally and internationally in a variety of educational contexts. Amy began her career as a teacher of Art and Design and was quickly appointed Head of Art at a large Secondary school. Amy worked at the University of Gloucestershire leading the Secondary Initial Teacher Training routes and working closely with colleagues in schools on delivering high quality mentoring and trainee teacher outcomes. Amy is interested in research and is currently completing her PhD in Creative Arts Practice and Wellbeing.



Georgina Manville

Georgina is head of staff professional learning and development at St Swithun's in Winchester, an HPL World Class School. St Swithun's has both a prep and a senior school and Georgina has been HPL Lead in the senior school since 2019-2020; she successfully guided the school through accreditation in November 2020 and re-accreditation in May 2023. Having worked in education for twenty years, Georgina has had various roles in both pastoral and academic leadership, in both the state and private sectors. She enjoys the variety and creativity her current role affords her and is passionate about empowering both colleagues and students to take ownership of their own development and learning. Still, she is possibly at her happiest and most relaxed in the classroom, teaching history; she would not like to be doing that all the time though.



Catherine Noble

Catherine is Assistant Headteacher, Academic – specifically Teaching and Learning – at St Edmund's College. They are a Catholic, Independent school; day with some boarding, and she works with an HPL Lead at their Prep School to ensure they are working 3-18. They have just been awarded World Class Status and their HPL Drive Group are now starting to work as an HPL Research Hub. She is keen to network with schools globally to become more informed as to strategies for school improvement. She is rigorous with the training of new teachers in HPL and this includes a session on Adaptive Teaching, which has replaced their traditional approach to Differentiation and is more fitting with the HPL Philosophy.

Catherine's background is as a Music Specialist and her career working in Senior Leadership began as a Director of Arts in the first Arts Specialist School, Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School (Girls). Following a short break with the birth of her daughter, she became Head of Sixth form at St Edmund's College; her current post was created in 2017. Her research into High Performance began at the time when they were working with the Growth Mindset movement.



Kirsten Parker

Kirsten has been teaching in Kent for over 25 years. She joined St Lawrence College in Ramsgate, Kent in 2017 as Head of Design Technology. In 2019 she became HPL Global Lead Teacher for DT and HPL Global Lead Teacher in 2022. Her area of interest is Teaching and Learning and she is currently Assistant Head Academic at St Lawrence College.



Victoria Pritt-Roberts

Vicky Pritt-Roberts is Head of Ellesmere College, an Independent school for ages 7-18 in Shropshire. She holds a Masters degree in Education. During her career, she worked in the maintained sector taking on the responsibility roles of Head of Department, Examinations Officer, Head of Sixth Form, before moving into the Independent sector as a Deputy Head Academic. She has a keen interest in curriculum development, timetabling, progress tracking and innovative learning opportunities.

Early on in her career, she engaged in Local Authority work as a Councillor and as Chairperson of Education for the County Borough of Wrexham.



Ian Smith

Ian is a Principal of Brooke House College, Market Harborough UK. An ISA boarding and day school with an internationally renowned FA football academy. Idealistic educator promoting an entrepreneurial mindset for innovation through student advocacy & agency with organisations in the UK, Switzerland and India. Leading collaboration projects with IB globally, ISA and High Performance Learning in the UK.

Twenty years' experience of whole school strategic and operational leadership of learning, staff development and pupil wellbeing, finance and marketing as senior leader in state, independent & international sectors. Identifying and nurturing talent in young people across learning, leadership and values. Trained ISI inspector (2024)

Lifetime Holder of Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion 2013. Co-creator of the UN Global Entrepreneurial Leader (GEL) Youth Summit 2018/2019. Author of UNLEASH (Cognita) and the IMPACT digital programme with Extend Education. Lead contributor to Global Geneva magazine on education, social enterprise and the UN SDGs.