



Q&A with Headteacher

1. What was your first job?

I have had lots of jobs, but my very first one was as a lifeguard at a swimming pool when I was 16.

2. How long have you been teaching for?

I started teaching in September 1990, so that's 28 years and counting.

3. When did you start at RHA?

I started as a Science and English teacher in September 2012.

4. How old are you?

52!

5. What is the most important part of your job?

That's a really difficult question! I think there are lots of things about my job that are important, like keeping everyone safe and making sure everyone works together, but the reason all the staff work here is to help the students to learn. We want everyone who comes here to be ready to go to college or get an apprenticeship when they leave, and my job is to make sure that can happen.

6. How do rewards work here?

We think that it's really important that everyone can achieve at something, so we make sure that students can get rewarded every day by doing activities that they like after they've finished their lessons. Then at the end of every week they get more time doing activities and sometimes they get taken out on trips. At the end of every term students who have worked hard can go on trips such as paintballing and go-karting, or to theme parks. We also have a lot of students on individual plans working towards rewards that are personal to them.

7. What happens when things go wrong?

We know that the students who come here all face challenges and sometimes find it hard to manage their emotions and behaviour. We believe in fresh starts so we work really hard with students to try and help them make the right choices, or to make things right when they make mistakes. This might mean taking part in a restorative meeting, having reflective conversations, catching up on work in detention, or doing jobs round school to make up for damage. We want students to be able to be independent and manage themselves so that they can really achieve their potential when they leave us.