



## We would like to CONGRATULATE Dean Monfries on his new role as Head Teacher of Beckmead Park Academy and share his journey

As a young adolescent, growing up in a deprived urban area of South London, I often found myself misunderstood in my educational settings. Due to this, I found it difficult to truly apply myself in school. It wasn't until after I left school, not reaching my full potential, that I realised the



importance of education and that it was actually down to me if I was to be successful or not. I enrolled in college to redo my GCSE's and A level equivalent, then went onto university to study

Psychology and counselling. During my studies, I volunteered at my local youth club to help mentor the younger boys attending, to try to help motivate them and keep them from making wrong decisions.

After I completed my degree, I signed up to a social care agency. Here I began working in residential care homes as a key worker for looked after children. I also would supervise contact sessions for families undergoing

assessment or for looked after children and their families.

After approximately 2 years of residential work, my agency informed me of a primary school for pupils with SEBD (Now known as SEMH) and challenging behaviours, that was looking for someone to work 1:1 with a young person with ADHD and very challenging behaviour. This challenge intrigued and excited me, as I felt that I could empathise with him due to my own school experiences.

On arriving at the school, I was immediately impressed by the love and care shown to the pupils and the understanding that the staff had of the needs of the pupils. This helped change my view of the school system. I felt that this was indeed a place to help young people with not only academic progress but the social skills to be successful in their communities. I was mentored and trained by an excellent practitioner and leader and encouraged to undertake my teacher training. I initially declined the offer as I felt I did not possess the skills to teach, but this leader believed in me and once again encouraged me to attend the training. Watching her practice and knowing I had her support and guidance gave me the confidence to undertake the training. After qualifying as a teacher, I was employed by the school as a full time class teacher. I found this a great honor and vowed to do my best to help these young people to meet their full potential.

# The Beckmead Trust Newsletter



After 5 years of teaching within the school, I was recognized for my work and contribution to the school by being appointed as Assistant Head teacher. Once again, I believed this to be an honor and was excited as this meant that in this role, I could reach out to a larger part of the school's community and help make a difference in their lives. I was once again fortunate to be mentored, supported and led by another excellent practitioner, this time in the role of principal. This leader was a true role model and helped me to develop my skills further.

After a further 2 years in this role, the school saw a restructure of the staff team, and the role of assistant head was deleted from post. However, I was once again recognized for my work and contribution to the school and appointed as the lower school coordinator. This was a greater role as it meant I was to lead both the primary phase and the Key Stage 3 provision.

Under my management and leadership, I oversaw many successes and was honored and fortunate to help so many young people progress and help the school obtain an outstanding grade in all categories from Ofsted.

After approximately 3 years in this role, I then left this school to undertake a Head of School position at another school similar to my previous one. This school was deemed to be requiring improvement by Ofsted, as it felt

that the school was not fully meeting the needs of the young people.



Within 3 years of being at the school, we were able to improve the outcomes for the pupils with much success. On our next inspection, Ofsted graded the school as GOOD with Outstanding features. We continued to raise our expectations, and within a few more years our next inspection by Ofsted rewarded us once again with an Outstanding grade in all categories.

I have recently been appointed Headteacher of the school, and begin a new challenge, one I look forward to with great delight. I hope to continue the positive legacy that we have built and hope to encourage and inspire others on my journey.