

ONE OF OUR OWN

introduces

GEMMA GIBBONS

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Full-time Primary teacher with Excell Supply



EXPERIENCE TO DATE

Having qualified in 2009, I did a little supply work and then left the profession to have a family. I came back to teaching a year ago and started back as a TA to build my confidence. I'm now teaching full time with Excell.

SPECIALISMS

Art and Science.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

I believe that education should be fun. I believe in positive praise and working to a pupils strengths, we are all unique and learn in different ways.

PROFESSIONAL ASPIRATIONS

I dream of having my own class and building a career as an ALN teacher, an area I'm very passionate about.

FAVOURITE TEACHER FROM SCHOOL

I have two. I always remember Mrs McKay's lessons being fun and fact-filled. She taught us in a non-conventional way.

In high school, I had an art teacher called Mr Tompkinson. He thought outside the box, saw pupils as individuals and taught us how to express ourselves in different ways.

I'm dyslexic, and I have ADHD, so having these free-thinking teachers in my life had a positive impact. I was never very good at concentrating or getting my ideas on to paper, but these two teachers taught me that learning is different for everyone, and they very much inspired me to teach.

MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF TEACHING

The moment of seeing that look on a child's face when something finally clicks and they 'get it.' There's a great sense of pride when you find a pathway and you see the dots connecting for a pupil.

FUNNIEST CLASSROOM MOMENT

I was teaching a Year 2 class. I had all the pupils on the carpet. Just as I was sending the pupils on task, a little boy put his hand up and told me that my moustache looked beautiful today! He said he could

see the sunlight on my hairs. I was still trying to find my words when he stood up, walked over and proceeded to stroke my 'moustache' asking if it tickled.

GREATEST CLASSROOM ACHIEVEMENT

In my first placement, I was working in a nursery class and the class teacher told me about a little boy who did not speak to anyone. The teachers and pupils had never heard him talk. I spent my first couple of weeks building a bond with him, working one-to-one and spending my break times with him.

I began to notice that his eyes lit up when I spoke about my pet dog. And he spoke! He told me about his pet dog! Each day, I used this as a starting point and soon, he was approaching me for a talk. After several weeks, he built up the confidence to talk to everyone about a variety of topics. I still go to this school now, and I feel pride every time I see him taking part in discussions.

IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT THE PROFESSION

I would take learning more outdoors, get children away from their desks and learn in more hands-on ways.

MOST EMBARRASING CLASSROOM MOMENT

I was using my mobile phone as a

timer during a group activity with a Year 6 class. I left it in the middle of the table and received a text message, which displayed as a banner. One of the boys in the class read it aloud... 'Good morning sexy...' Cue eruptions of laughter and lots of remarks from the rest of the class. I learned my lesson after that!



PASTIMES

Walking, hiking, being outside. I adore Wales and I love finding new places for the family to explore. I will often be found up a mountain or paddle-boarding in the lakes. This year, I'm hoping to try my hand at climbing and caving.

THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING FOR EXCELL

The staff are amazing. Everyone I've come across has been friendly.



Gavyn Edwards, Key Account Manager, Excell Supply

I get most of my work booked with Gavyn, and he is just brilliant. He finds me lots of work and is always introducing me to new schools. He is bubbly, approachable and always in great spirits.

Read Gemma's article on 'How to Make a Good First Impression as a Supply Teacher' - the first contribution to Excell's new, online Training Zone.



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