

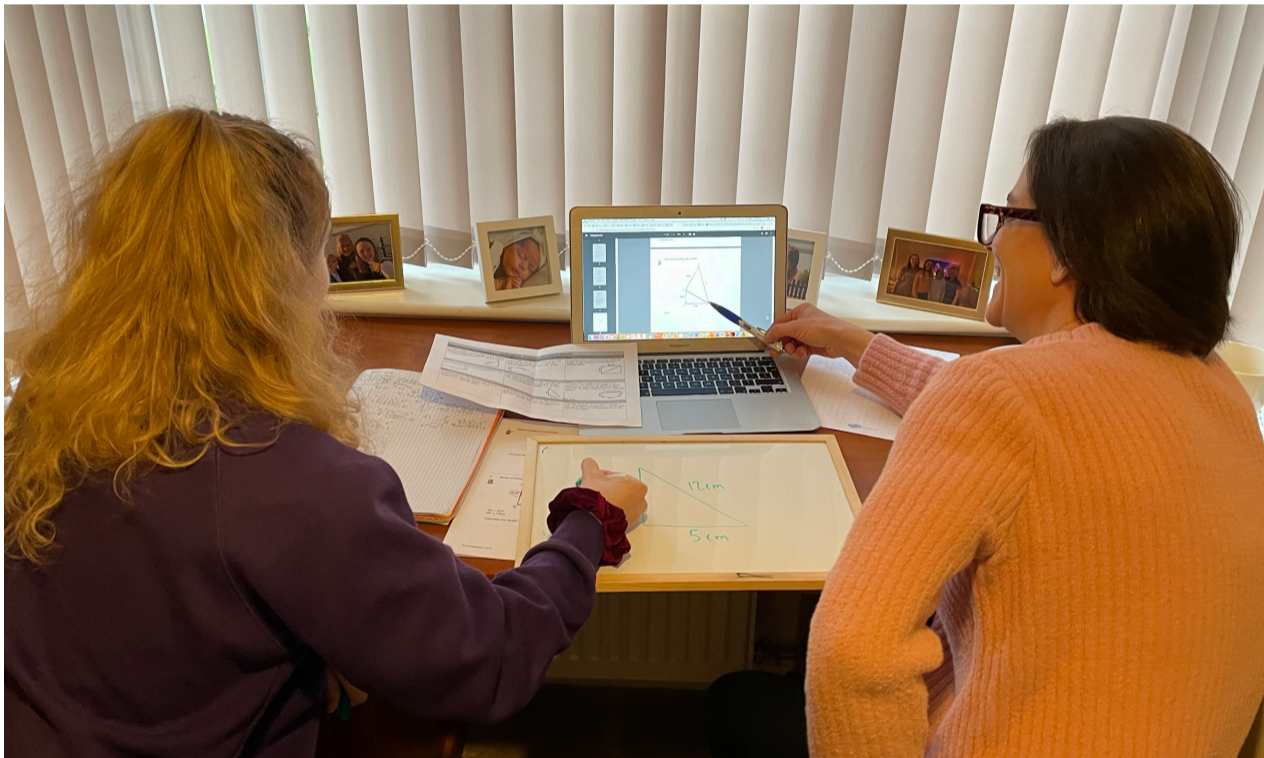
ONE OF OUR OWN

introduces

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Home tutor with **Excell.**
supply



FAVOURITE TEACHER FROM SCHOOL

Sadly, no individual teacher stood out for me in high school. My abiding memory are lessons which lacked energy and enthusiasm. At university, however, there was a lecturer that displayed both of these attributes, and more! Dr Harrison was wonderful! Anything he didn't know wasn't worth knowing. Through his energy and enthusiasm, he could demonstrate concepts brilliantly, and always got us involved to represent physical processes wherever possible! At the core of all this was undoubtedly his passion for the subject. He was a true inspiration.

EXPERIENCE TO DATE

I have been a qualified primary teacher for 10 years, graduating from Glyndŵr University, Wrexham in 2012. Having taught in primary schools, I launched my own successful tuition business ('Taylortastic') providing educational services for a wide range of clients, including students in China and elective home educators. I also work for Excell as a home tutor, working with a number of students who are unable to attend mainstream school due to health issues.

SPECIALISM

Science.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

I aim to instil a love of learning in all the young people I work with. Not just for today but for the rest of these young peoples' lives. I have always loved learning and it enriches me as a person. I would love others to gain the sense of satisfaction I get from exploring new areas of knowledge and understanding. I also believe in the importance of metacognition and getting students to learn how to learn. This, I believe, gives young people a framework, a 'live' process that they can apply to any learning, both now and in the future.

GREATEST EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT

I think my greatest achievement occurred in my role as a home tutor. The role often involves working with students experiencing acute levels of anxiety and/or depression. Consequently, the ability to break down barriers and engender trust is paramount. Added to this, as a home tutor, you become the sole guardian of a student's education, sometimes for a

few months, sometimes for a year or more. You become that child's education. When I first met Hannah (not her real name), she hadn't attended school for a long time due to crippling anxiety and, indeed, when I first started teaching her online, she couldn't bring herself to switch on the camera and I know she wouldn't leave the family home, such was her lack of confidence. Thankfully, I was able to build a great relationship with Hannah, over the 6 months we worked together and I was able to refocus her on her GCSE courses with Hannah achieving a wide range of good GCSE passes. Hannah, the frightened young person I first met, is now excelling in her apprenticeship at a local sixth form provider.

It's students like Hannah that make the home tuition service so vital and so rewarding. I felt as rewarded as Hannah did. We were a great team!

Beyond unavoidable illness, there are some students who simply do not adapt to mainstream schooling, not through weakness but due to a frustration at being unable to concentrate and progress in the system. Students often cite unrelenting testing, peer politics and a feeling that they are being herded, a feeling that they are unknown as an individual with little or no voice. This can create or add to pre-existing anxiety. It's interesting that students don't talk about schools or teachers letting them down but, maturely, point to deficiencies in how contemporary education is organised.

PROFESSIONAL ASPIRATIONS

I have to say that I don't have any aspiration to be doing anything different to what I'm doing today. I'm cool. I'm happy about where I'm at in life. Work/life balance is an aspiration and I feel that my current roles allow me to develop as a professional and as a lifelong learner whilst also allowing me to commit to other interests in my life which are equally as important to me.



FUNNIEST CLASSROOM MOMENT

I was doing a lesson based on 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', and after reading the story, and prior to the class going on a bear hunt themselves, the scene was set by the appearance of my TA in somewhat of a panic: hair ruffled and her clothes clearly ripped by what looked like claws!

The idea was for clues to be found and read and riddles answered in order to find subsequent clues, and of course the bear at the end! The bear (a 5ft bear from Costco!) was in the forest-school shed, surrounded by honey, and asleep from eating too much of it!

The trouble was, we had made up my TA so well, and her performance was so good, that some of the children believed she had actually been attacked by a bear and got upset! My initial amusement was quickly replaced with reassuring words. This lesson was also being observed by the Headteacher, she did, however, love it!

PASTIMES

I am mad about fitness. In fact, I'd go as

far as saying I'm obsessed with it! I'm a fully-fledged triathlete and I spend 90 minutes per day swimming, running and/or cycling. As I combine my time between Wrexham and Porthmadog, I am able to be an active member of Harlech Triathlon Club and prepare with others for team events. I also love travelling off the beaten track for the different cultures it brings you in contact with. I particularly loved my experiences in Jamaica, Barbados, Thailand and Australia.

IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT THE PROFESSION

One of the issues that led me to move away from mainstream education to alternative modes of delivery was the feeling of being straight-jacketed by the system. I just felt a lack of freedom and that frustrated me.

I know that schools are under extraordinary budget pressures but more initiatives like the home tutoring service with even more hours would be amazing. With all the best will in the world, schools do not suit everyone and a suite of fully-resourced alternative opportunities would be a force for good.

THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING FOR EXCELL

The support I get from the company is amazing. Despite working alone, I'm still made to feel part of the team. I've been impressed with how professional the team are and every time I have a query, the support from managers has been impressive. I'm particularly thankful to Rachel Elek, the Compliance Manager, who is just amazing.