



Meet our Hackney New School Staff





Hello

I would like to introduce you to the committed and well qualified staff at Hackney New School. I am very proud of the team we have assembled here at HNS. They offer the experience, skills and dedication to support students and ensure the very best academic outcomes.

I started teaching myself in 2003 as I thought it would be an interesting thing to do and I loved my subject - English. However, I very quickly realised the life-changing power a good teacher has and I have continued to strive to be the very best teacher I can be ever since.

In September 2019, I had the opportunity to come to Hackney New School. At the time I was Headteacher at Forest Gate Community School - one of the best schools in the country - but I knew I had to come here. The children and staff are special at Hackney New School. Together we are growing and making HNS the very best school in Hackney. We know each child by name and we hope that this guide enables them to get to know us better too.

Mrs Whelan

Ms Abdule



Subject Taught: Mathematics

Why do you love your subject? I love Maths because it is independent of culture, language and opinion. Everyone, no matter who, can get involved in learning maths!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended the University of Leeds and studied Chemistry.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to love learning for the sake of learning, so they can navigate the world, fulfil their dreams, recognise and challenge inequality and contribute to making society a better place for all!

Interesting fact: I grew up in Hackney and attended Clapton Girls Academy. I also lived in the Netherlands for 10 years!

Mr Acquah-Mankoe



Role: Site Manager

What is your role? I am responsible for the health and safety of everyone. I oversee security, building maintenance and the cleaning of the school. It is an important role for the smooth running of a school, so learning can take place uninterrupted!

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want to provide clean and pleasant environment so our students are safe on site.

Interesting fact: I was once a radio presenter / DJ!

Mr Adam



Role: Data and Administration Manager

What is your favourite subject? I love Computer Science!

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to reach their full potential and grow into responsible adults.

Interesting fact: I have travelled to many countries. If you see me around school, ask me what countries I've visited!

Mr Bagley

Subject Taught: Physical Education

Why do you love your subject? Sport is very important as it teaches you so many personal and professional skills that can be transferred in to your personal life and future employment.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended Portsmouth University and studied Sports Development and Management.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to have the confidence to be themselves and achieve all that they want to.

Interesting fact: I have run the London Marathon and played football at Fratton Park (Portsmouth FC's stadium).



Ms Barnes

Subject Taught: English (also Head of Learning for Years 8 and 9)

Why do you love your subject? I love that English offers us so many ways to communicate, and it goes beyond pen to paper!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended Brunel University and studied Film and Media.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to achieve the best start in life, by achieving the best GCSE grades through their hard work and effort!

Interesting fact: I sang for the Queen as part of a choir when I was thirteen years old!



Ms Blair

Subjects Taught: English and Drama

Why do you love your subject? I love all aspects of teaching English but my favourite has to be the discussions that reading a text - be it a poem or a novel - can inspire.

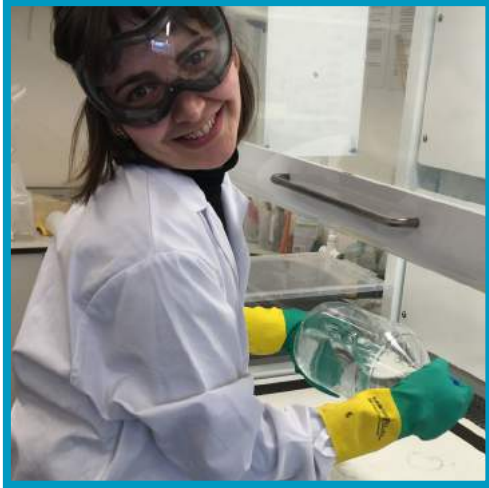
What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied English Literature at the University of Bristol.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to have the confidence and ability to pursue their hopes and aspirations, whatever they may be!

Interesting fact: Before joining HNS, I lived in Vietnam where I worked as a writer for an international magazine. I loved everything about it EXCEPT the cockroaches that permanently invited themselves into my apartment. Gross.



Ms Carcea



Role: Science Technician

What is your favourite subject? Obviously my favourite subject is Science!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended Babes-Bolyai University in Romania and studied Psychology.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to be constantly curious about themselves and the world we live in.

Interesting fact: I practise yoga and mindfulness!

Ms Castle



Subject Taught: English

Why do you love your subject? I love English because I enjoy reading books and seeing the world through someone else's eyes.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended Cardiff University and studied English Language and Literature.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to have the best opportunities to achieve their full potential and to believe in themselves!

Interesting fact: I ran the half marathon in Cardiff, but couldn't walk for two weeks after. I will definitely train myself better for the next marathon I take part in!

Mr Cole



Role: Student Manager for Years 8 and 9

What is your favourite subject? I love Computer Science!

What university did you attend? I attended London Metropolitan University.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to achieve good grades, to dream big and have great self discipline.

Interesting fact: I value people who bring joy and who have a good character!

Ms Collymore



Role: Receptionist

What is your favourite subject? I love English Literature.

Where did you go to school? I went to Tower Hamlets Secondary School, which is now known as Mulberry Girls School.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to thrive in a happy and supportive environment. I want HNS students to learn skills that will help them through the various stages of their lives.

Interesting fact: I love cooking.

Ms Davies



Subject Taught: English

Why do you love your subject? I love creating writing and how liberating it can be to describe the mood of the writer. I am also fascinated by poetry!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended the University of Hertfordshire and studied English Language with Communications and Spanish.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to become life long learners who become confident individuals, engaged with their community.

Interesting fact: I can run 100m in 11.9 seconds and I'm ready to take on any student or teacher at Sports Day if you think you can beat me!

Ms Douglas



Subject Taught: PE (also Head of Learning for Year 11)

Why do you love your subject? I love being active and PE teaches resilience. PE also brightens your mood, makes you feel happy and improves self-esteem.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended Edgewood College of Education in the South Africa and studied Human Movement Studies.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to be happy and healthy individuals.

Interesting fact: I have represented South Africa and England in Touch Rugby

Mr Dumuje



Subjects Taught: Religious Studies and History

Why do you love your subjects? I love that RS and History provoke thought and debate!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied at Kings College London for my undergraduate degree in War Studies. I then attended Birkbeck University of London for my Masters in English and I'm currently studying at SOAS University of London for my PhD in History! I'll soon be Dr Dumuje!

What do you want for our students at HNS? Put simply, I want excellence for our students!

Interesting fact: I love photography.

Mr Eccles-Williams



Subject Taught: Modern Foreign Languages

Why do you love your subjects? I love languages because they are at the heart of all human interactions. Languages also teach you about cultures and people.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended Edinburgh University and studied Politics and Spanish.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to develop a curiosity about the world. We learn new things when we are curious and ask questions.

Interesting fact: I am passionate about footvolley—it is like volleyball but played with a football and you can't use your hands!

Mr Foughali



Subject Taught: Modern Foreign Languages

Why do you love your subject? Languages connect everyone and it helps you understand different cultures and ways of living.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended the University of Aix en Provence in France and studied English.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to become the best at what they aspire to do!

Interesting fact: I have two titles in French boxing!

Ms Fraser



Subject Taught: Geography

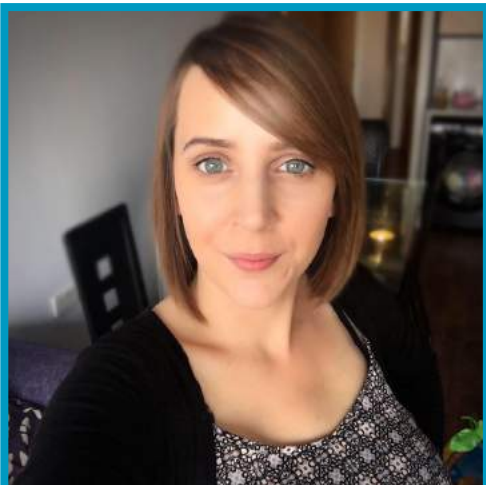
Why do you love your subject? We are all connected in the great circle of life. Exploring how everything is woven together across the globe is fascinating. Geography also helps me to understand my place in the world and how I can make positive changes for future generations.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended Oxford Brookes University and studied Anthropology. I then attended the University of Amsterdam to complete a Masters in Human Geography.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to feel empowered by their studies in Geography - you are part of a massive web of connections that span the Earth and you CAN make a difference!

Interesting fact: My friends call me Spider girl, as I love rock climbing!

Ms Gallagher



Role: Administrator

What is your favourite subject? I love English!

What college did you attend? I attended City and Islington College.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to be happy in all that they do!

Interesting fact: I once organised a Blue Peter cake sale in my village primary school to donate money to build clean water wells in disadvantaged countries and got a blue peter badge for it!

Mr Gazi



Subject Taught: Computer Science

Why do you love your subject? Technology plays a big part in our lives and Covid-19 has proven how important technology is for us all to keep connected!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended the University of Westminster and studied Business Management.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to have a passion for learning and develop a thirst for knowledge.

Interesting fact: I like to visit historic places.

Ms Green



Subjects Taught: Maths and Science (also Head of Learning for Years 7 and 10)

Why do you love your subject? I love maths and science because it is the language of the natural world. Along with physics, to understand maths is to understand the beautiful patterns behind everything we see.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied philosophy, art and botany at university in the USA and I have a Masters in History and Philosophy of Physics from the University of Notre Dame in the USA.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to be amazed at what they can do and achieve.

Interesting fact: I grew up in Alaska. Before I became a teacher, I worked on fishing boats and gathered wild plants, and ran around mountain tops with my sled dog Yakobi!

Ms Habtay



Role: Finance Officer

What is your favourite subject? Mathematics - I love numbers which is why I work in finance.

Where college did you attend? I attended Westminster College.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to enjoy learning.

Interesting fact: I speak four languages: German, English, Tigrinya (Eritrean) and Amharic (Ethiopian).

Mr Hussain



Subject Taught: History

Why do you love your subject? How can you understand the present when or look to the future, when you don't understand the past? History helps us to understand our identities individually and collectively as a society, whilst allowing you to develop lots of key skills that are useful in many varied careers.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied at International Politics and International History at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and completed my Masters in Education at the University of Birmingham.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to know they can achieve anything, if they put their minds and effort into it.

Interesting fact: I used to be in a semi-professional theatre group.

Ms Hyde



Subject Taught: Science

Why do you love your subject? Science is the study of why and how things happen. You can trace everything that happens in your everyday life to an aspect of Science.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended the University of Nottingham and studied Biochemistry and Genetics.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to be happy, healthy and have an instilled self-belief that if they set their mind to something, then they can achieve their dreams.

Interesting fact: I train for triathlon so spend my weekends running, swimming and cycling!

Mr Khan



Subject Taught: Science

Why do you love your subject? Science is all around us. It allows us to explain everything around us and how it works.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended Queen Mary's University and studied Medical Genetics.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to develop a passion for Science. It allows students to develop critical thinking skills that puts them in an advantageous position for their future.

Interesting fact: I love to travel and have been to more than 25 different cities all around the world.

Ms King



Subject Taught: Cover teacher

Why do you love your subject? History - I love teaching it. It is such an interesting subject and so relevant to today. You can go off on an adventure to some truly amazing parts of our History.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended the University of Lincoln and studied History.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to have the best start in life and to be able to have the skills and confidence to flourish in whatever they decide to do in the future.

Interesting fact: I spent 11 years in the Army Cadet Force (6 years as a cadet and 5 years as an adult instructor).

Mr Klemencic

Subject Taught: History

Why do you love your subject? Studying History enables a person to observe the world around them differently. Everyone and everything has a story, with every one of these interlinking and affecting each other. Understanding where we came from can explain who we are now, and inform us as to how best to proceed in the future.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended the University of Winchester and completed my Masters at Oxford Brookes University.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to become well informed, critical members of society with solid grades that can enable them to achieve their aspirations.

Interesting fact: I play bass in a rock band



Mr Kuriyan

Subject Taught: Geography

Why do you love your subject? It is the only subject which brings together sociology, biology, politics, history, zoology and so many more subjects.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended the University of Leeds and studied Geography.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to realise it is their world out there waiting for them to make a success of it or to change bits that need improving.

Interesting fact: I spent my earliest years being raised on cargo ships. I saw whales, dolphins and glowing plankton blooms before I saw a sheep in real life!



Ms Laverty

Subject Taught: Mathematics

Why do you love your subject? Maths is like a puzzle and it makes you feel super smart when you finally figure out the answer.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Mathematics and French at the University of Saskatchewan (in Canada) and I studied Education at the University of Regina (also in Canada!)

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to leave and be able to look back on their experience here with fond memories and feel prepared for their futures.

Interesting fact: I'm from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in Canada!



Ms McAuslan



Role: Library and Careers Manager

What is your favourite subject? I live to read so being in the library is my perfect habitat. It marries very well with giving careers guidance because both involve opening up undreamt of vistas and new world for students.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Spanish with Writing and Publishing at the Middlesex University.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to develop a passion for reading and an understanding of the value to their education to their lives. I want them to understand that all their ambitions are possible and to give them the guidance they need to develop the skills and resilience to realise their potential.

Interesting fact: I'm a journalist and writer outside of school.

Ms McDermott



Subject Taught: English

Why do you love your subject? I love that there is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer in English. You can interpret the material any way you like, as long as you back it up with evidence!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied American Studies at the University of Manchester.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to secure the level of education they need to enable them to leave the life they want.

Interesting fact: I own over 50 pair of trainers across two continents!

Ms Merton



Role: Exams Officer

What is your favourite subject? I love Art and History

Where did you attend college? I attended the London College of Fashion.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to embrace their learning and achieve their full potential.

Interesting fact: I love to bake. My brownies and cupcakes are legendary!

Mr Mohammud



Subject Taught: Mathematics

Why do you love your subject? I have always been fascinated by maths as it is a subject which uses critical thinking and builds problem solving skills.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Mathematics and Information Technology at Charles Sturt University in Australia.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want each student to expand their academic and personal development so that they can achieve their personal objectives as they grow older.

Interesting fact: I love playing football, swimming and reading.

Mr Moody



Subject Taught: EAL and English

Why do you love your subject? English gives me the opportunity to learn new things every single day. New words, new facts, new languages. As Wittgenstein (a famous philosopher) once said: 'the limits of your language are the limits of your world!'

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Philosophy and Politics at the University of Manchester.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to enjoy the best possible learning environment and for students to be excited to come to school.

Interesting fact: I play the piano and I'm a Liverpool fan!

Ms Neale-Kenwright



Subject Taught: Religious Studies

Why do you love your subject? I love Religious Studies because it gives us a unique opportunity to explore our own beliefs about the nature of existence and meaning and purpose of life, while learning about those of others. By learning about the beliefs that motivate people, we can begin to understand how those beliefs have shaped, and continue to influence, the world we live in.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Philosophy at the University of Roehampton.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to leave with a strong sense of self, to be knowledgeable and proud of themselves.

Interesting fact: I perform spoken word poetry as a hobby!

Mr Noble



Subject Taught: Drama and Physical Education

Why do you love your subject? Drama is an art form, a practical activity and an intellectual discipline. It helps us makes sense of the world we live in and by doing so better know ourselves. I love Drama because it gave me the confidence to be myself.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Drama, Physical and Visual Theatre at Edge Hill University and I'm currently completing a Masters in Theatre and Education.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to leave with knowledge, confidence and the skills they will need to succeed in life.

Interesting fact: There are approximately 100,000 hairs on an average human head. There a 0 on mine...!

Ms Page



Subject Taught: Music and Art

Why do you love your subject? Music is something almost everyone engages with everyday. I love the creative potential of the subject and the way everyone responds and interacts with the subject in a different way.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Music at Durham University.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to be able to access and engage with music in way they enjoy and want to pursue. I think giving young people the chance to express themselves is so important. Whether you want to make beats and record in the studio, or join our ensembles playing any instrument, or sing in the choir, the music department has something for you!

Interesting fact: I have seventeen first cousins!

Ms Purcell



Role: Family Support Worker

What is your favourite subject? I love sports so it'd have to be PE.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Sports Psychology and Coaching Sciences at Bournemouth University.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to become mature, independent learners with a bright and creative outlook on life.

Interesting fact: My dad is friends with David Beckham! Sadly, I am not...

Ms Quinn Larkin



Subject Taught: Music

Why do you love your subject? Music transcends language, everyone can access it, everyone is born with a musical instrument (your voice) and it's enormously creative whilst also being rigorously academic!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Music and Psychology at Dublin City University and completed my Masters in Music at Kingston University. I've also studied at the Kodaly Institute and the Liszt Academy in Hungary.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to have the best possible educational experience so that they are prepared for every opportunity that comes their way.

Interesting fact: I won a poetry competition and had my poem published!

Mr Rees



Subject Taught: Mathematics

Why do you love your subject? It is creative, fun and useful, very useful!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Economics and Maths at the University of Sussex.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to be as excited about learning and discovering as I am when they are as old as me!

Interesting fact: I accidentally learnt how to circular breathe when I was at school queuing for lunch when I was eight. This is a vital skill if you want to play the didgeridoo!

Mr Roberts



Subject Taught: English

Why do you love your subject? I really love words, and the amazing stories you can tell with them.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied English and Drama at the University of Sussex, followed by a Masters in Musical Theatre at the Royal Academy of Music.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want to share a love of reading, and the worlds it can offer with my students.

Interesting fact: I love to sing!

Mr Smith



Subject Taught: French

Why do you love your subject? Language takes you anywhere you want to go.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended the University of Sunderland! Not a good one. I didn't work hard enough at school.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want HNS students to be very polite and confident.

Interesting fact: I once walked on burning coals!

Mr Smythe



Subject Taught: Music and Art

Why do you love your subject? It brings people together, it is one of the oldest creative subjects and requires lots of different skills sets and qualities.

Where did you study? I studied at the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our student to become well-rounded, curious and empathetic young people.

Interesting fact: I love painting and drawing.

Ms Sultana



Subject Taught: English

Why do you love your subject? I love that I continue learning so much through reading, reading and more reading!

What university did you attend? I studied for both my Bachelors and Masters degrees at Queen Mary University of London.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to be happy, confident and enthusiastic. I want our students to have the best opportunities in life.

Interesting fact: I love mystery novels set in Victorian England and enjoy keeping up to date with politics.

Ms Travis

Role: HR Manager and Headteacher's PA

What is your favourite subject? Either Art or History.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Fine Art at Solent University.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to discover their passion and work hard to succeed with it.

Interesting fact: I used to work for The Speaker of the House of Commons!



Mr A. Uddin

Subject Taught: Science

Why do you love your subject? Put simply, Science is the art of understanding everything around us. Curiosity is what helps us discover the unknown and Science is all about being curious.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I attended the University of Kent and studied Biomedical Science.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to pursue education and follow their ambitions in life.

Interesting fact: I love cars and you can have any conversations about cars with me. NOT football though (unless England are in the finals of the World Cup!)



Mr J. Uddin

Subject Taught: Science and Maths

Why do you love your subject? I love Science as it helps us understand the world around us. I love Maths because I love solving problems.

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Medical Engineering at Queen Mary University of London and then my Masters in Leadership at University College London.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to have the best education possible.

Interesting fact: My cat's name is Mowgli and he's a celebrity with my classes.



Ms Waldren



Subject Taught: Art

Why do you love your subject? Art helps give shape to your thoughts. It takes many creative forms and can be therapeutic in helping us express ourselves when words fail us. To me, Art is food for the soul. The EARTH without ART is just 'EH'...!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Fine Art at Coventry University.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to come into every Art lesson with an open mind, to experiment confidently and trust in their own artistic ability. Art lessons are great spaces to share, support and create.

Interesting fact: My 6x great-grandfather John Frederick Herring Sr, was commissioned by Queen Victoria to paint her horses. She became his patron and his artwork is still on display in the Tate Britain!

Mr Wolfensohn



Subject Taught: Science

Why do you love your subject? Science helps explain all the things that happen in the natural world from diseases to insects to animals to planets. Sometimes you get to blow stuff up!

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Biochemistry and Queen Mary University of London.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to reach their full potential and succeed and to be well prepared for the big 'scary' adult world.

Interesting fact: Outside of school my biggest hobby is rock climbing, mountaineering, skiing and trail running.

Ms Woodman



Subject Taught: Modern Foreign Languages

Why do you love your subject? Bonjour! Hola! I love languages because it is fun and it is also very exciting to travel to other countries and be able to speak to the locals.

What did you study? I studied French Literature and Politics with Business.

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want our students to work hard, be kind and always do the right thing.

Interesting fact: I used to be a taekwondo champion!

Mr Yusuf



Subject Taught: Mathematics

Why do you love your subject? Maths is the easiest subject - you are either right or wrong! With effort, you can improve and always be right!

How long have you been teaching? I have been teaching for three years

What university did you attend and what did you study? I studied Accounting and Finance at Anglia Ruskin University

What do you want for our students at HNS? I want every student who leaves HNS to be confident in their mathematical abilities and become young professionals who are mathematically and financially savvy!

Interesting fact: I'm an avid gamer - ask me what games I play!



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