



The **Sutton** Academy

Meet the Academy
Leadership Team



Academy Leadership Team

Principal	Mrs A Sherman
Senior Vice Principal	Mr P Willerton
Vice Principal	Mr K Harker
Vice Principal	Mrs L Grace
Assistant Principal	Ms L Seddon
Assistant Principal	Mr W Clarke
Assistant Principal	Ms T Simmonds
Director of Operations	Mr P Blakemore



Mrs A Sherman

Principal

Mrs Sherman graduated from University of Liverpool with a First Class Honours degree in mathematics.

She went on to complete a Post Graduate Certificate in Education before beginning her career as a teacher of mathematics.

She has taught in a range of mainly high achieving comprehensive schools and has held a number of senior roles including Head of Mathematics and Deputy Head teacher in an outstanding academy in Liverpool.

Mrs Sherman has a wealth of leadership experience having spent an academic year leading The Belvedere Academy followed by 7 years as Principal of a Warrington High School transforming it from an underachieving school to an academy securing over 62% 5A*-C including English and mathematics.

Mrs Sherman joined The Sutton Academy in 2014 and is leading the academy on a journey to good and outstanding.

Having lived in St Helens for many years Mrs Sherman is passionate about the Sutton Community and determined to ensure that all students achieve to the very best of their ability.



Mr P Willerton

Senior Vice Principal

Mr Willerton graduated from Sheffield University in 2003 with a degree in Mathematics and Management. He went on to complete his Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Sheffield Hallam University, starting his career as a Mathematics teacher in Barnsley in 2004.

He has worked as a Senior Leader in a number of local authorities and led on a range of areas within schools such as Behaviour, Inclusion, Pastoral Support, Additional Educational Needs, Safeguarding and Key Stage 4 Achievement. As an Assistant Vice Principal in Wakefield, and later Acting Vice Principal, Paul led Key Stage 4 achievement in a tough but successful inner city school from 48 A*-C including English and Maths to 62% putting it within the top 20% for Value Added in the country.

Mr Willerton joined The Sutton Academy in February 2015 and is supporting the Principal and governors in their drive to ensure that all students go onto to achieve to the best of their ability through quality teaching, high standards and pastoral care.

Having moved from Yorkshire Paul now lives with his wife and two young daughters on the Wirral.



Mr K Harker

Vice Principal

Raising Achievement KS4

Mr Harker graduated from the University of Aberystwyth with a Bsc Econ in Business Administration and continued onto Worcester College of Higher Education to gain a PGCE and qualify as a teacher.

Mr Harker has taught in a number of schools across the country and abroad, and has continually achieved excellent examination success in Business Studies with students in KS4 and KS5.

Mr Harker joined The Sutton Academy in 2003 and has held a number of leadership roles at curriculum level and senior leadership level. He firmly believes that all students have the potential to be successful in life and is fully committed to raising achievement and life chances for the students at The Sutton Academy.



Mrs L Grace

Vice Principal Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Sixth Form

Mrs Grace graduated from the University of Liverpool in 2004 with a BSc degree in Psychology. She went on to complete her Certificate in Post Compulsory Education before taking an assessment only route with Manchester Metropolitan University to achieve Qualified Teacher Status.

She has worked as a senior leader for a number of years in an Academy in Liverpool where she has undertaken roles such as responsibility for English, line management of Social Science, raising standards in Teaching, Learning & Assessment, as well as responsibility for Progress and Achievement of all students. In her most recent role Mrs Grace significantly improved outcomes for Year 11 students helping the Academy she worked in go from Requires Improvement to Good and be the most improved school in Liverpool in 2016.

Mrs Grace joined The Sutton Academy in September 2017 and has responsibility for Teaching, Learning & Assessment in order to support the senior team drive the academy forward on its journey to outstanding. She passionately believes that all children, regardless of background, can achieve highly and is committed to helping students of The Sutton Academy achieve this vision.



Miss L Seddon

Assistant Principal Raising Achievement KS3

Miss Seddon graduated from the University of Wolverhampton with a BA Honours in Dance and Sports Studies training extensively with The Birmingham Royal Ballet School. From here she then went on to complete her PGCE in Dance at Liverpool John Moores University. She joined The Sutton Academy fifteen years ago and was quickly promoted to Curriculum Leader of Dance setting up both GCSE and A-level and overseeing the planning of the state of the art Dance Studio.

Miss Seddon has had a number of roles within the leadership team and is currently in charge of Raising Achievement in KS3 and also leads The Primary Strategy. She is passionate about making positive changes to the students at The Sutton Academy on our journey to outstanding.



Mr W Clarke

Assistant Principal Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Mr Clarke graduated from Exeter University in 2008 with a degree in Sports Development and Geography. He then spent a year leading his Student Union before going onto study for his PGCE at the University of St Mark and St John.

Mr Clarke joined Sutton in January 2018 having spent the previous seven years working in a multi trust academy in inner city London. He gained experience in a number of roles including head of house dealing with many pastoral issues, head of year focusing on behaviour and attendance and his most recent role as an Assistant Principal in charge of curriculum and assessment. His last year as Assistant Principal saw him and the team of senior leaders take the school from requires improvement to a good school. He has a special interest in the use of data and how this can be used to provide the best outcomes for pupils.

Mr Clarke is responsible for the behaviour and attendance areas of The Sutton Academy in their journey to becoming outstanding. He is very keen to ensure that the young people at The Sutton Academy develop the necessary skills and attitudes to learning in order for them to be successful throughout their time at the academy and for life afterwards, once they graduate from their studies.



Ms T Simmonds

Assistant Principal AEN & Inclusion

Tabitha Simmonds graduated from Sussex University, Brighton with a BA in American Literature. She started her career in education working as a Teaching Assistant at Chiswick Community School, in West London, in 2003. Following this she completed a PGCE in Secondary English at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Having worked in two very different comprehensive schools in London, within English departments, she moved into a role as special needs teacher and then SENCo at The City Academy, Hackney, from 2010-12. City is a start-up academy, Ms Simmonds was central to setting up the SEN provision and leading a large team of LSAs; in 2012 Ofsted inspectors commented: 'The achievement of all students at the school, including vulnerable groups, is 'outstanding' compared to national and local averages.'

Since relocating to the North West Ms Simmonds has completed the NASENCo qualification, at Edgehill University, and the CCET and CPT3A Certificates in Psychometric Testing, while working as SENCO at a large secondary school in Wigan.

Ms Simmonds took a promotion to ALT at The Sutton Academy in September 2015 and is committed and passionate about driving up standards for all learners, in particular those with Additional Educational Needs.



Mr P Blakemore

Director of Operations

As a former student of the academy, born and raised in the local community, Paul is very proud to be part of the academy leadership team and is passionate about helping all students to succeed and achieve their potential.

Paul attended the academy, then as Sutton Community High School, to study his GCSE's and A-Levels. On completing these he undertook a degree course at Liverpool John Moore's University where he studied Business Information Systems and graduated with honours.

After initially working for two years at Halton Local Authority for the Schools Data Team, monitoring all secondary schools, Paul then took on new employment in 2004 back in his old school; then known as Sutton High Sports College.

Originally employed as Data Officer his role evolved quickly with numerous additions of management responsibility along the way, resulting in promotion to the Academy Leadership Team.

Paul has a wealth of knowledge in ICT and Systems used in Education, and the experience he has gained over his employment period now enables him to play a pivotal role in the development and progression of the academy.

Paul is proud to be part of the local community and still lives locally with his wife and two children; one a former student and the other a current student of the academy! He is also the Coach of a local amateur Junior Football Team that has a number of children from the academy within it.



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