



The **Sutton** Academy

Meet the Academy
Leadership Team



Academy Leadership Team

Principal	Mr P Willerton
Vice Principal	Mrs L Grace
Vice Principal	Mr K Harker
Associate Assistant Principal	Miss T Simmonds
Director of Operations	Mr P Blakemore
Assistant Principal	Mr D Hudson
Assistant Principal	Mr R Hodgson
Assistant Principal	Ms G Medare



Mr P Willerton

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 as the Senior Vice Principal before being promoted to Principal in September 2020. He is currently working closely with the governors to ensure that all students go on 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.



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.



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.



Miss T Simmonds

Associate 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.



Mr D Hudson

Assistant Principal

Mr Hudson graduated from the University of Birmingham with a degree in Philosophy with Political Science. After working for a charity, which specialised in engaging disaffected young people and developing community cohesion, he went on to complete his Post Graduate Certificate in Education at the University of Chester.

Mr Hudson has had several different roles and responsibilities across five schools, including Head of Sixth Form, attitudes to learning, teaching and learning, and curriculum. As a Specialist Leader of Education, with a teaching and learning specialism, he has supported both primary and secondary schools across the North West in improving pedagogy, culture and outcomes.

Mr Hudson joined The Sutton Academy in January 2021 as an Assistant Vice Principal and is currently working with all stakeholders to continue the excellent work done on curriculum, elements of teaching and learning, and culture.

Mr Hudson has a passion for social justice and equality of opportunity and looks to improve elements of education to achieve these goals.



Mr R Hodgson

Assistant Principal

Mr Hodgson graduated from Edge Hill University in 2008 with a BA honours in Physical Education. He went on to complete his Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Edge Hill University, before starting his career as a PE teacher in Sefton in 2009.

During his first teaching position he continued his studies, completing his Masters in Teaching and Learning at Edge Hill University in 2013. At various points in his career he has taken on a number of whole school leadership responsibilities including pastoral support, early years teacher development and school research lead.

Mr Hodgson joined The Sutton Academy in September 2018 as Faculty leader of Physical Education before being promoted to Assistant Principal in April 2021. He is currently responsible for staff CPD and induction, community engagement and student leadership. He is passionate about improving teaching and learning so that all students achieve their potential.



Ms G Medare

Assistant Principal

Ms Medare graduated from the University of Birmingham with a BA Honours in Sport, Management and Education. She went on from there to complete her PGCE through Roehampton University and a further maths TSST from Plymouth University.

Previously she has worked in 4 West Midlands schools in various academic and pastoral leadership roles including most recently working for a large Trust leading on student voice and engagement.

She has joined The Sutton Academy having relocated to the North West and is responsible for Personal Development including behaviour and safeguarding. She is passionate about academic and pastoral teams working together for every child, providing an inclusive system. She is committed to helping the students of The Sutton Academy achieve their very best to prepare for a successful future and truly believes The Sutton Academy is a place where students can achieve this.



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