

The Sutton Way

Willerton Wisdom

Our reporters sat down with Mr Willerton to find out his story.

Owen Ashton and Finley Naylor



Editor: Naomi Mann.
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How long have you been teaching?

I started teaching in 2004 and have been teaching for 21 years.

What subject do you teach and what do you like most about your subject?

I'm a Maths teacher. My favourite topic is Surds – most Maths teachers don't like to teach those, but I do!

How did you get to your current job role?

I joined as a deputy head but when the old principal retired, I took over as head teacher.

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be Physiotherapist and I even worked in a hospital for a little while, but it just wasn't for me in the end.

What is your favourite book?

The 'Slough House' series -

my favourite of those books is called 'Joe Country'.

Do you support any sports teams?

Scunthorpe United F.C.

Do you have any pets?

A dog called Toby.

What is your favourite food?

Indian takeaway.

Do you have a favourite song?

'Wonderwall' by Oasis. A more modern choice is 'Rein me In' by Sam Fender & Olivia Dean.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I spend as much of my spare time as I can with my daughters.

What is one piece of advice you would give to us?

Be kind to everyone because they remember how you act.

Perfect Purcell

Our reporters caught up with the hilarious and energetic Mr Purcell to ask him about his in-school life and beyond.

Owen Ashton, Finley Naylor and Harry Hyland.



How long have you been teaching?

I'm going into my twentieth year of teaching. That's 20 years of pretending I know what I'm doing!

What subject do you teach? What do you like most about your subject?

I teach Construction. My favourite part of doing it is seeing my students turn their knowledge into the beginnings of a career.

Do you have any other job titles within the school?

I am Faculty Leader of ADT, which means I'm in charge of Art, Design and Technology and Food Technology.

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a train driver at first because I really liked how fast trains went. Then, I wanted to be a golfer!

What are you currently reading? Are you enjoying it?

I'm reading 'Say Nothing' by Patrick Radden Keefe. I'm really enjoying learning about the history of Northern Ireland.

Do you support any sports teams?

Liverpool FC.

Do you have any pets?

I have a very smelly French Bulldog named Betty.

Do you have a favourite song?

I have squillions of favourite songs! One is 'Golden Slumbers' by The Beatles because it reminds me of my son being born.

What is your favourite food?

My favourite food is steak, and Galaxy Minstrels! I also love an Indian takeaway – I order a Chicken Tikka Madras (hot!!) with Keema Rice, Keema Naan and poppadoms.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to play golf and I like to go running. I like going to cinema with my wife and my children. I like spending time with my friends.

What is the best piece of advice you would give to the students and other members of our TSA community?

My best advice is: always listen to advice! And make sure you enjoy your life as much as you can – it goes in the blink of an eye.

Events, Trips and More

Dungeons and Dragons Club

DND is all about creativity and fun. You get to make a character and develop them in a story. The DM (Dungeon Master) presents you with something that has happened, and you get to make a choice about what you want to do, whether in battle or a conversation. You get upgraded in the story at some point and it's a lot of fun. You can get pets or you can start out with one. It is run by Mr Gilhooley and Mr Pritchard and it takes place in the science corridor in Mr Gilhooley's room. I enjoy DND a lot; it's very fun, and the only limit is your imagination. You can do anything – Whether it works depends on the roll of a dice. There are many classes and races that give your character certain ability's, weapons and upgrades. What you choose will define your character and the story, so choose wisely. Do what you would do, or do what you wouldn't - either way, have fun! I'm excited to see you there.

Owen Ashton



Rugby Festival— October 2025

The Year 8 rugby festival started positively with a 2-0 win against The Rainhill High A Team, earned through tough defence and a brilliant display of ball movement. Up next was Cowley, which was a close contest that we narrowly won 1-0. This was followed by a loss to the reigning English champions, Rainford High school, 0-5, though we still showed promise of scoring throughout the game. Next came a match against The Rainhill High B team, which we won 3-0, scoring some spectacular tries from all over the pitch in multiple different styles of play. The final game was against a strong De La Salle side who had caused some upsets earlier in the festival, but with the confidence from our previous wins, we took our game to a new level. We worked hard in defence to punish any mistakes they made, which led to a convincing 4-0 victory.

Well done to all the boys involved. Keep up the excellent team spirit and hard work. Next up is the town cup after half term!

Mr Sutcliffe

Photo by Mr Sutcliffe

Pumpkin Picking Event

Before half term, the House team organised an awesome Halloween-themed event after school. Over 100 students flocked to the Tech Plaza to take part.

The staff had decorated the Tech Plaza with lots of fun decorations. The tables had black covers on them, with cobweb and pumpkin patterns. There was even Halloween-themed music blasting to add to the atmosphere!

We lined up outside with Mrs Dempsey, who called our names to each pick a pumpkin. Then, when we came inside, and we were given the choice to either paint or carve our pumpkins... I did both. I created a spooky pumpkin version of Ghostface, one of my favourite horror characters. It was a great time – I hope we get to do it again next year!

Owen Ashton



Events, Trips and More

The Book Fair

The Scholastic bookfair was an opportunity to find new interests and new books organised by Mr Lovelady and Mrs Dempsey, and it was supported by Mrs Worrall. All of our Year 7 English classes had a time slot to go and pick out books they liked, and lots of students also went either afterschool or at break and lunches to pick out books. There was a huge variety of different books and genres.

I picked out 'Five Nights at Freddy's: Escape the Pizza Plex'. I enjoyed going to the book fair because there was so many choices of books to choose from – something for everyone!

Overall, we raised £687, and we now have £270 that we can use to buy more books for the school. If there are books you would like to see in the library, speak to Mr Lovelady in BG04.

Finley Naylor

Editorial

Starting the newspaper this year felt like a daunting task, but my team of intrepid reporters have made it an absolute breeze! Thank you to Owen, Finley and Harry for their hard work in interviewing and writing these articles, and to Naomi Mann for all of her help as student editor. All photographs (unless stated) were taken by the wonderful Miss Bancroft—thank you! And thank you to Mr Willerton and Mr Purcell for being fantastic interviewees. One final thank you to Mr Unsworth for all of his help, support and ideas at the start of this term—the whole newspaper team wishes him the best in his new school.

Ms Pennington

Creative Corner

This year we have already seen an incredible amount of entries into our creative writing competitions run by Mr Lovelady, Miss McKeivitt and Miss Coughlin. Head over to BG04 and BG05 if you would like to know more about upcoming competitions

Below is just one amazing example from Maya Ali in Year 8!

Eel Marsh House

Ominously and mysteriously, Eel Marsh House loomed. Its weathered timbers, warped, seemed to struggle against the constant dampness, as if the building longed to sink into the marsh surrounding it. Dark, empty, murky windows provided no hint of warmth and welcome; the swirling thick fog enveloped the marsh like a shroud. The marsh itself, a colossal expanse, spread out from the house's base, a maze of reeds and stagnant pools.

A constant stillness filled the air, interrupted only by the occasional unsettling croak of hidden creatures or the whisper of the wind through the skeletal reeds. The atmosphere was heavy and thick with a strange, cloying scent of damp earth and something disturbingly aquatic. Within the marsh laid many creatures.

The house stood alone, a prey to decay, its outline a dark contrast against the ghostly mist. It was a place where shadow seemed to deepen, the silence seemed serene, a tense silence. One couldn't shake the feeling of unease, a prickling awareness that something unseen was watching from the depths of the marsh or something from the darkened windows of the house itself.