

What is it like to work as a Teacher of Personal Development at The Holgate Academy?

“The Personal Development and Well-being Faculty consists of Personal Development, Religious Education and Physical Education. We deliver a range of GCSE and post 16 courses including Child development, Religious Education Btec PE at level 1/2 and 3 and Health and Social Care at Level 3. In Personal Development we deliver the statutory RSE requirements, Financial Education, Careers and Citizenship in one lesson a week, by a specialist team. Religious Education is taught across years 7-11 with a new short course being introduced for all students in KS4.

I joined Holgate Academy as an Assistant Head of Faculty with responsibility for the Careers and Personal development aspects of the Faculty, I then became Head of faculty and Careers leader, I undertook Careers leader training and more recently completed the Diploma in Careers guidance through the NTU MA programme to enable me to provide Personal Careers guidance which meets Gatsby requirements.

We have seen many developments over the years but the faculty remains a well established faculty with many cross curricular links, for example offering employer engagement events for all year groups, running enterprise events and hosting visiting drama groups. We work closely with PE running well-being events such as the annual fun run. More recently we have played a leading role in supporting the development of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) across the school and in working closely with other faculties to ensure that cross curricular links to our subject are optimised. As a result of this I was successful in being appointed Assistant Principal to oversee whole school Personal development and the ongoing development of EDI across the school.

Holgate has offered me the opportunity to develop both my teaching and leadership with a strong commitment to Continuing Professional Development. The staff body are supportive and the opportunities to work with colleagues across the trust to share expertise many and varied.”

Miss S McKenna (Assistant Principal)