



SMART School Leaders



**West Meadows
Primary School**

#AimHighSucceedBeHappy

Rebecca Marsh

Headteacher of West Meadows Primary School

Rebecca is the Headteacher at West Meadows Primary School in Hoyland. She began her teaching career in September 2003 at Burton Road Primary School, working in years 5 and 6. In her second year of teaching Rebecca became literacy leader and later undertook work for Barnsley Local Authority as a Leading Practitioner for Literacy and Lead Year 6 teacher.

In September 2008 Rebecca joined St. Mary's CE Primary School as Assistant Headteacher. When the school achieved National Support School status, she was given the opportunity to support Darfield Valley Primary School as their Acting Deputy Headteacher, a school which had been placed in Special Measures by Ofsted. From there, working alongside St. Mary's Primary School, and later St. Mary's Academy Trust, Rebecca has supported a number of schools across the Trust. In September 2014, she embarked on a new role as Director of Teaching and Learning for the Trust. In this role, she had the opportunity to support staff working at all levels within the organisation to provide the best possible education and life chances to as many children as possible.

In her current role as Headteacher of West Meadows, Rebecca is passionate about the teaching of reading as the key to unlocking the curriculum and a world of learning for all pupils. She is also striving to ensure that West Meadows becomes a centre for all as the heart and hub of the local community.





**All Saints Academy
Darfield**

Building Futures, Shaping Lives

Catherine Green

Headteacher of All Saints Academy



Catherine Green is currently Acting Head teacher at one of our schools. Prior to becoming Acting Head teacher, she was one of our Lead Practitioners for Teaching and Learning. She worked within this role for seven years and, in this time, supported the development of colleagues at all levels within our schools.

In 2006, she began her teaching career at Darton Primary School where she taught across Key Stage 2. At this school, Catherine took her first steps into subject leadership including PSHE, Design and Technology, History and Mathematics. She also spent a number of years in the role of Special Needs Coordinator.

After serving the school as first Assistant then Deputy Headteacher, Catherine progressed her career as Deputy Head teacher of The Mill Academy, developing her knowledge and experience in Key Stage 1 before taking on her current role.

In 2014, Catherine became a Specialist Leader of Education for Barnsley specialising in SEN support and NQT/ITT development.

Catherine strongly believes that education is key to future success and that all children are entitled to the highest quality of education. She is committed to working alongside colleagues to ensure that children across St Mary's Academy Trust are provided with the first-rate education that they deserve.



Dodworth St John's C of E Academy

Jon Smith

*Head of School of Dodworth St. John's C of E
Academy*

Coming soon...



THE MILL ACADEMY



**Have the courage to be creative
Have the strength to be resilient
Have the knowledge to be world-wise**

Rachel Chambers

Headteacher of The Mill Academy



Rachel Chambers is the Headteacher at The Mill Academy in Barnsley. The Mill is located in the village of Worsborough.

After training at Edge Hill University, Rachel began her teaching career in Barnsley, at a large community school in Athersley. She has extensive experience in the primary classroom and has taught across the entire age range. She is particularly passionate about teaching and learning and improving outcomes for all children, in particular vulnerable groups, and those with special educational needs. Rachel is also passionate about curriculum design and opportunities to make memorable life-long experiences for all children. This is something very much at the forefront of her work as Headteacher at The Mill Academy.

Rachel's previous roles have provided her with opportunities to gain a wealth of experience and skills, holding different levels of leadership. These roles include Literacy Leader, SENDCO,

Key Stage 2 Leader of Learning, Local Authority Moderator, SLE, Assistant Headteacher and formerly Lead Practitioner supporting teaching and learning across St Mary's Academy Trust.

Rachel utilises her coaching skills to enable all staff to be the best they can be. She has a keen interest in keeping up to date with educational research and pedagogy and the sharing of best practise.



Simon Kaufman
Executive Headteacher of
Queens Road Academy and Dodworth St. John's C of E
Academy

Simon Kaufman is the Headteacher of Queens Road Academy in Barnsley. The school is located in the heart of the town and the community.

Having begun his career as a primary teacher in Birmingham specialising in Technology, Simon is skilled at utilising information and uses this talent to steer strategic decision-making as a member of the leadership team in his current role. Simon has also worked in a wide range of roles as an Advanced Skills Teacher, an Assistant Headteacher in Sheffield, an Achievement for All Coach and a School Improvement Officer with BMBC. Simon holds an MA in Education (Birmingham) and NPQH Leadership from the Institute of Education.

Most recently, as Headteacher, Simon has worked with his team to develop the former school from Special Measures to a Good category. The school now has strengthened its role in the community and established a healthy, happy environment.

Simon's current educational interests are developing the quality of ICT and digital learning across the Trust and sharing best practice in the support of New to English pupils. Simon is committed to providing a great start for pupils by innovating today's learning for tomorrow's world.





Elsecar Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy

Our school, our church, our community...

Stephen Silverwood

Headteacher of Elsecar Holy Trinity Primary Academy

Stephen Silverwood is the Headteacher of Elsecar Holy Trinity Primary Academy. He began his primary teaching career in 2006 having secured a place on the Graduate Teacher Training Programme. He has worked in several schools across South Yorkshire, holding senior leadership roles in many of these schools and gaining experience of different school contexts and communities.



As Headteacher of Elsecar, Stephen led the team which successfully moved the school from Special Measures to Good.

Having studied Sports Science at Leeds Metropolitan University and having worked for a number of sports' governing bodies, Stephen has a real passion for sport and the benefits it can have on children in school, especially the positive impact it can have to children's mental health and well-being.

Stephen is passionate about the academic progress of children from disadvantaged backgrounds and how funding can be used effectively to support these children to reach their full potential regardless of their individual starting point in life.



**St Mary's C.E.
Primary School**
Every Child Flourishing...



Royston St John Baptist
**Church of England
Primary School**
Learn more. Move more. Be more.

Lee Spencer

Executive Headteacher of St. Mary's CE Primary School and Royston St. John Baptist C of E Primary School

Lee Spencer is the Executive Headteacher of both St. Mary's Primary School and Royston St. John Baptist Primary School. He began his teaching career at St. Mary's nearly 30 years ago and is proud to now be receiving children of past pupils back through the school. Lee represents Barnsley Primary Schools on the Barnsley Music Hub Board.

Following a number of years as deputy headteacher at St. Mary's, during which time the school became a National Support School and later converted to be the founding school of St. Mary's Academy Trust, Lee took on the role of Acting Headteacher at All Saint's Academy Darfield which was in Special Measures. Working closely with the amazing staff team and the evolving Trust, the school quickly came out of measures and Lee returned to St. Mary's as Headteacher the following year.

From September 2018, Lee has taken on the role of Executive Headteacher of St. Mary's Primary and Royston St. John Baptist Primary School. Close links have been made at all levels within the two schools to provide the best possible support for the children and families in their care. Good practice is shared, and staff work closely together on a variety of projects to best enhance the day-to-day offer each school provides.

From the start of his career in teaching, Lee has always been passionate about providing pupils in his care with the best possible start to the educational journey. Regardless of their background and abilities, the attitudes and values which are imparted at an early age give pupils at his two schools the skills to develop into well-rounded adults.





Rebecca Openshaw-Nettleship

Headteacher of Darton Primary School

Rebecca Nettleship is currently Acting Head teacher at Darton Primary School. Prior to becoming Acting Head teacher, she was one of our Lead Practitioners for Teaching and Learning (EYFS). She has worked within this role for six years and, in this time, supported the development of colleagues at all levels within our schools.



Rebecca began her career in 1999. During her 23 years, she has taught every year group from Nursery to Year 6 and led a range of subjects including Science, ICT and Mathematics. She has also been SENCo at The Mill Academy and EYFS Leader in both The Mill Academy and Royston St. John Baptist.

After being Assistant Headteacher at the Mill Academy, Rebecca moved to Royston St. John Baptist where she continued her lead practitioner role, working with all 9 schools in the trust.

In 2016, Rebecca became a Specialist Leader of Education for Barnsley specialising in Early Years. In 2015, she became a THRIVE licence practitioner, followed by a THRIVE trainer in 2017, supporting children with their social and emotional needs.

Rebecca has a passion for ensuring all children have the chance to reach their full potential, seeing and valuing each individual, the staff who work with them and the parents and families

who support them.