

KS4 Progression Advisor

Paula Howe – South Kent



Joining VSK in January 2016 as a Progression Adviser to Year 11 is a further culmination of both Recruitment and Educational Placement skills. I have spent many years in the recruitment industry, managing a thriving branch profit centre covering Canterbury, Thanet and surrounding areas. In later years I joined an independent London agency as a Senior Recruitment Consultant to the Media and Design Industry. With children at school age I quickly became immersed as a teaching assistant in primary and secondary vocational subjects. After a few years I transferred to work with year 10's as their work placement co-ordinator and more recently I was an Employability Skills Co-ordinator for a thriving local sixth form college. Liaising daily with students, educators and community groups I provided measurable work placements and promotion of employability skills required for a rewarding career pathway.

Leigh Knell – East Kent (Thanet)

Karen Wood – East Kent (Canterbury and Swale)



I originally joined VSK in October 2015 as a year 11 Progression Adviser covering North and West Kent. However due to moving house I transferred over to the East Kent team in January to cover Canterbury and Swale. I was a nurse for approximately 21 years working mostly within the NHS and towards the end of my nursing career I took up a post at the Rochester Secure Training Centre for young offenders where I contributed to the daily wellbeing and health education of the young people.

This is where I discovered my passion for working with young people. Since leaving the Secure Training Centre I have worked for Connexion's as a Health Adviser / Sexual Health Adviser and at a Girls Grammar school as the learning support manager supporting the students from year 7 up to year 13.

Samantha Armstrong-Mills – North Kent

I have joined VSK as a year 11 Progress Advisor for North Kent in September 2017. Prior to that, my career for the last 16 years has been in education. Teaching KS1 for 10 years in Italy at an International School in Verona and then returning to England to broaden my experience and explore my passion for rehabilitation through education. I spent 4 and a half years working in HMP Maidstone as a ESOL Tutor. Through this experience I decided to broaden my experience to work with schools with behavioural difficulties and PRU. I also started my Forest School Practitioners Level 3 qualification which I am currently completing and have worked in the woods with Wild Times in Bearsted who offer therapeutic Forest School for children who have been excluded.



Tyler Johnson – West Kent



I joined VSK in November 2017 as a KS4 progression officer for West Kent. Prior to joining VSK I completed an honours degree in Criminology and I worked in a mainstream secondary school as a learning coach/ teaching assistant, supporting children from Year 7 to 11. My main role at the school was to support children in an alternative education provision. During my time in this post, I also worked as a tutor for children in care. I supported these children with their course work and exam revision for their GCSEs. I really enjoy supporting CIC and decided to join VSK so I could help them to fulfil their potential.