

YR11 Progression Advisor

Paula Howe – South Kent



Joining VSK in January this year 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.

Michael Kelly – East Kent (Thanet)

I joined VSK in February 2016 as the Year 11 Progression Advisor for Thanet. I have a degree in Sociology and Criminology and previously worked for 'Enterprise Learning Alliance' as a Teaching Assistant in alternative curriculum for a year and a half.



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.

Suzanne Turner – West Kent



I joined VSK in mid-June 2016 as the Year 11 Progression Advisor for West Kent and Medway. The mission 'possible' I have chosen to accept in this role as an agent for VSK is for every young person I work with to have a destination next September (or the opportunity of one or more given) using my super powers and skills to infiltrate the system and overcome the barriers to learning (building self-confidence and esteem in the process). Some of these strategies and skills have been gained through my social work training and placements within a child protection team and at the Refugee Council, qualifying as a social worker in September 2012. Additionally, others while being an independent visitor with Young Lives Foundation, as well as transferable ones from various youth work roles and informally mentoring young people over the years.

Vacancy – North Kent

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