Corby Business Academy

SLT - Profile



| Name: | Hannah Docherty |
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| Role: | Assistant Principal |
| Areas of responsibility: | Teaching and Learning (Quality Assurance and Professional |
| | Development) |

Please provide some information about what you do within your role at the Academy?

At the Academy, I over see our teaching and learning practices and quality assure the approach and consistency across departments. I get to carry out weekly learning walks to identify areas of pedagogy that as a school we have mastered or identify areas we can work on as a school. I get to input, analyse and interpret whole school teaching and learning data that can identify trends to address in whole school Continuous Professional Development. I am evidence informed led and thrive off educational research that I can implement into weekly and termly CPD sessions. I capture our whole school Teaching and Learning Toolkit in our weekly bulletins and Hub Toolkit so that teachers feel they can try new strategies and develop their practice continually.

When did you join the Academy and in what role?

I arrived at the Academy in January 2024 as Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning. Alongside being the lead teacher in Business.

Why did you apply for your role at Corby Business Academy?

I am from Corby and went to a Corby school, it is the most rewarding feeling knowing I am giving back to my community. It has been a dream of mine to work at Corby Business Academy and I feel honoured to be part of this community.

Please provide more information about your background and experience, including previous roles and the year you went into Teaching/Education:

I qualified as a Teacher in 2013, having completed my PGCE at the University of Derby and my Law and Business Degree at Edge Hill University in Liverpool. I worked in industry before training as a teacher and specialised in Sales and Marketing. My previous roles in education have included Teaching and Learning Lead Teacher, Head of Faculty and Assistant Vice Principal.

Why did you want a career in teaching and to work in the education sector?

I have always wanted to be a teacher since I was at school and many teachers inspired me. I admired how much teachers would push me to my full potential and I knew I wanted to have that job one day.

Why specifically did you want to become a Senior Leader?

I have a real strategic passion and I like to look at the bigger picture of organisations. I really enjoy being involved in whole school projects and activities that can influence so many learners and member of staff. I have a real passion for paternalistic style leadership where you help others grow and I constantly want to ensure I support others to be the best they can be.

What skills and expertise do you need that you bring to your role?

Resilience to keep going when things feel challenging is essential to sustain consistency that is needed at Senior Leadership. Also, I pride myself on being a role model and ensure I 'practice what I preach' when it comes to standards and expectations.

What are your personal aims/goals/achievements that you hope to achieve in your role at the Academy?

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I aim to ensure that all students have the best access to educations and have a consistence experience across their lessons in the academy. I aim to spread my passion around Teaching and Learning and hope that staff can take tangible ideas into their practice continuously.

What things have you implemented so far in your role and what has been the impact/effect?

Alongside the Vice Principal for Quality of Education we have created a new quality assurance calendar which is married with an 'open door' culture of visiting lessons. I believe in the continuous development approach to education and have been working on a culture where we all share practice. I deliver CPD to all staff and feel that we have implemented helpful pedagogical practices that we have seen directly evident lessons.

Please provide some information about some of the current projects/area of focus you are concentrating on and detail how this supports your overall aims/goals/achievement as well as the impact you hope to achieve/the improvements you hope to make from these:

I have recently been working on 'flying starts' into lessons to ensure all students have a prompt and purposeful entry into their lesson and access a well thought out retrieval activity. I have been able to share a plethora of research around this where staff can cherry pick which strategies will work for them. I am currently working on an online shared area of all Teaching and Learning resources so that as a school we become experts in pedagogical areas and have shared language what students can access.

What do you enjoy most about working at the Academy as well as your role?

Relationships with students knowing I get to contribute towards lives and future career prospects every day. I really like how my role allows me to see students in a variety of settings from practical to theory.

What positive changes have you seen throughout your time at Corby Business Academy?

The 'Phone Policy' which has enabled students to have clearer expectations around the use of phones outside and allowed for lesson distractions and interruptions in their learning time.

In your opinion, what are the strengths of the Academy?

A culture of staff who genuinely want the best for students.

Please add any additional comments you wish to make or feel are relevant: