



Student Support



**Jesmond Park
Academy**

Introduction

The student support staff are a friendly and approachable team. Within the base a calm environment is created to help to offer a safe and supportive area of the school for students to come and access on a daily basis. The team offer expertise in the education of more able, dyslexic, dyscalculia and dyspraxia pupils. A wide range of emotional and social needs can also be addressed by the team in addition to specific learning difficulties. The team is overseen by the Director of Student Support (Chris Aitken) and the Learning Manager (Claire Munro SENDCO) the team also consists of; two Assistant Learning Managers (Jaime Watson SEN & Jenan Spires EAL), SEN Governor, a team of Higher level Teaching Assistants and a team of Learning Support Assistants. The SEN team also links closely with Pastoral teams and the Well Being Centre to provide further pastoral and medical support.



Mr C Aitken

Director of Student Support

Mr Aitken joined the school in September 2016 having previously worked as the SENDCO at Keiper School in Durham.

Mr Aitken has vast amounts of experience across a wide variety of areas in the school. Outside of school he spends his time playing badminton and spending time with his two children.



Ms C Munro

Learning Manager (SENDCO)

Ms Munro has taught at Jesmond Park Academy for 18 years after qualifying from Sheffield Hallam University with a BSC (hons) in Physical Education with qualified teacher status. She is a very experienced member of staff having worked in a number of roles within the school. As well as working in the student support department Ms Munro also works in the PE department.

Outside of school Ms Munro loves to go to watch Newcastle United and enjoys running. The majority of her time is taken up with her two children who she loves spending time with.



Mrs J Watson

Assistant Learning Manager

Mrs Watson has recently joined us from Walbottle Academy and brings with her a vast amount of experience. Mrs Watson is extremely friendly and approachable and is always around to help students out.

Outside of school she loves spending time with her son and loves to go horse riding, paddle boarding and runs for Saltwell Harriers.



Ms J Spires

Assistant Learning Manager

Ms Spires is the Learning Manager for EAL students at Jesmond Park Academy. Her main responsibility is coordinating the assessment of EAL learners, providing effective teaching strategies catering for different needs and organising effective professional development sessions.

She has over 20 years of teaching experience where she has taught a range of subjects ranging from Science, Geography, RE, IT, Business Studies, Media Studies, Drama, but specialising in Mathematics. As an EAL Learning Manger she has experienced many cultures and religions and her family and friends are from different countries, cultures and religions. Arabic was her first language until the age of 11, so she understands the difficulties of moving to a different country and experiencing another culture and learning a new language.



Miss R Hutchinson

Behaviour Officer

Miss Hutchinson is the Behaviour Officer and helps children that are struggling to manage their emotions and their behaviour in school.

She has been doing this job for about six years now and really loves it. Before doing this job she worked as a Housing Officer and a Connexions Personal Adviser. She has always worked in jobs where she can help people that might be finding things hard, as she loves being able to help others.

In her spare time she likes watching TV - Hollyoaks is her favourite show. She also likes reading magazines.



Miss C Blake

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

I am a HLTA for Neuro Divergent Provision here at Jesmond Park Academy. I support children and young people in class as well as providing SEMH and bespoke projects and programmes. I am massively committed to improving access to education for the ND and SEN community. I love my role and share this passion with my colleagues and students.

I have been working in a secondary schools and SEND provision for 16 years. Experienced in behaviour support, SEMH interventions, and leading/coordinating teacher and Parent hub platforms.

Previous to JPA I was working with the Young Carers team at North Tyneside Carers Centre, providing a supportive framework for children and young people across the county and identifying caring roles, while offering and signposting advice and guidance to families.

Aside from my experience as a practitioner in education and in a charity organisation, I have a passion for Art, Environmental science/Nature and Technology. Over the past five years, I have designed and developed an outdoor space that provides habitats for local wildlife as well as a learning opportunity, that I am developing for potential engagement with the wider community.



Ms N Chalder

Higher Level Teacher Assistant

Miss Chalder has worked for JPA for 17 years. To begin with she worked as an HLTA in English, but 2 years ago she was moved to Student Support. She now teaches Literacy to small groups of Year 7, 8 & 9 pupils. She also carries out Exam Access Arrangement testing, for older pupils who may benefit from extra time in their exams. Outside of school she likes anything to do with Disney, especially Star Wars. She also loves to read books.

Mrs N Winship

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mrs Winship is an HLTA at Jesmond Park Academy. She is a qualified science teacher.

Her role involves managing the central area in the Student Support Base and teaching phonics to a small group of students. Outside of school Mrs Winship enjoys spending time with her 3 children and spending time outdoors.

Miss F Storey

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Miss Storey joined Jesmond Park Academy in April 2023 as a Learning Support Assistant. Miss Storey has a degree in Guidance and Counselling and has previously worked with young people in a variety of settings.

Outside of school, Miss Storey likes going out for coffee and going on long walks.

Mr P Bradley

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mr Bradley is one of several Higher-Level Teaching Assistants in the school. He has worked at Jesmond Park Academy for over 11 years, mainly supporting the Maths department and before that he taught Science, mainly Chemistry and Physics at another school. He teaches Numeracy to small groups of about 5 or 6 students from year 7, 8 and 9. The numeracy rooms are situated in the Student Support base and lessons consists of basic number work that can help you with your problem-solving skills as well as providing an advantage in your Maths lessons. Mr Bradley enjoys cooking and makes a mean shepherd's pie!

Miss M Prest

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

I previously worked in Jesmond Park Academy as an IE Manager and in the Nurture Room, providing vulnerable students with emotional support and the tools to build their confidence, self - esteem and eventually return to lessons.

I have also been involved in community projects at JPA, taking groups of students to help elderly and vulnerable people in the community by tidying up their gardens, planting trees at Jesmond Dene and holding events in school to raise awareness of different cultures and faiths. I have also taken part in Peace Walks where different faiths and cultures walked through Heaton with banners promoting peace and acceptance. Some of these banners were created by our students at JPA.

Before joining Jesmond Park Academy I was a Humanities teacher, specialising in RE, a subject I am very interested in as it raises and sometimes attempts to answer some of life's deep questions such as Why are we here? Where did it all begin? I also took time out from teaching in the UK and volunteered in Tanzania, Africa where I taught Religious Studies and was also an Activity Leader, planning and presenting fun, engaging activities for students at the school, many of whom did not have a lot of happiness or fun in their lives due to challenging life experiences.

In my spare time I enjoy creative writing, going to the theatre and cinema and going for nice long walks along our lovely North East coastline. I also love watching True Crime on TV have been told by some students I have worked with that I would be a good police interrogator as I like to get to the truth, no matter what!!



JESMOND PARK ACADEMY



Mr M Galley

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mr. Galley joined Jesmond Park Academy in January. An experienced Primary Teacher, he has taught in a number of Outstanding schools in Newcastle, North Tyneside and Sunderland over the last decade. At Jesmond Park, Mr. Galley teaches Phonics to Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 to help students to improve their reading proficiency.

Outside school, he spends most of his time with his daughter and enjoys cooking and reading.



Mr A Pounder

Learning Support Assistant

Mr Pounder is friendly and has worked at JPA for 8 years. His role in school is to support in lessons and, help students understand and complete work. He also does intervention lessons, as well as supporting with homework club after school. Mr Pounder is an active member of the North East Bikers against Bullies, and has played the guitar for 16 years. He likes playing video games and his other hobbies are drawing and learning to speak different languages.

Miss E Smith

Learning Support Assistant

Miss Smith joined the Student Support Team in September 2022, previously being a student at Jesmond Park Academy. She studied English Language and Health and Social Care for her A Levels.

Outside of school Miss Smith enjoys spending time with her family and going on long walks.

Miss S Begum

Learning Support Assistant

Miss Begum joined Jesmond Park Academy in January 2022 from Durham University where she studied Politics. You will often find her in different departments in the school, and she may come into some of your lessons to help give you extra support with your work. Outside of School she enjoys socialising with friends and going out for meals.

Miss M O'Rourke

Learning Support Assistant

Miss O'Rourke joined the school in September 2023 from working with primary school children. She offers support in lessons and works in the SSB area. Outside of school she is involved in running and is part of Elswick Harriers as well as playing netball. She also enjoys travelling and exploring different types of cultures and places.

Mrs M Coxon

Learning Support Assistant

I joined Jesmond Park Academy in December 2022 and come with the experience of having worked in a number of other schools. I am multilingual: mother language Spanish, English, basic Portuguese.

Outside of school I enjoy socializing with friends and going out for meals. In the future I want to be a Spanish Teacher.



Mr P Bath

Literacy Intervention

Mr Bath has worked in Student Support at Jesmond Park Academy since 2022, first as a Learning Support Assistant and now teaching Literacy Intervention. These are small classes to help KS3 pupils practise their reading, writing and speaking skills. Before coming here, he studied English Literature at Newcastle University, where he continues to research for a Master's about capitalism and conspiracy theories, so he's always happy to help with anything to do with English.

For fun, he enjoys cooking, films, reading and football. He is a Manchester City fan in exile, but is slowly being won round by Eddie Howe's natural charm and swashbuckling style-of-play.



Mrs H Carter

Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Carter has just joined the Student Support Team and come with a huge amount of experience having worked in a number of other schools in the SEN department. Outside of school Mrs Carter enjoys spending time with her family.

She enjoys going to the theatre, going out for meals, reading and going on walks.



After School Clubs

- Handwriting Club – This club helps develop and enhance the skills needed for legible handwriting.
- Lexia PowerUp - This is a program for non-proficient readers. It accelerates the development of both fundamental literacy and higher-order thinking skills, through adaptive learning paths.
- Lexia Core5 – This aims to build foundational reading skills for students through personalised learning. The program focuses on six aspects of reading instruction: phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and structural analysis.
- Literacy Intervention – This is a short-term intervention that provides intensive, small-group instruction, which supplements classroom literacy teaching. The goal is to lift the literacy achievement of students who are not achieving grade-level expectations in reading.
- Numeracy Intervention - These sessions build students' skills and knowledge of key mathematical concepts, which can then help their understanding in maths lessons.
- Dyslexia Club – Sessions will include training in letter sounds, phoneme awareness, and linking letters and phonemes through writing and reading from texts at the appropriate level to reinforce emergent skills.
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs – Supports children with reading and writing and enables them to access the whole curriculum. It also helps with communication skills, which will help children to make sense of the world around them.
- English as an Additional Language – This club aims to help EAL students:
 - Use English confidently and competently
 - Use English as a means to learning across the curriculum
 - Where appropriate, make use of their knowledge of other languages



Steve Campbell Principal

Hugh Robinson CEO

Jesmond Park West, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE7 7DP

T +44 (0)191 281 8486 **F** +44 (0)191 281 0381

E admin@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk **W** www.jesmondparkacademy.org.uk