

JESMOND PARK ACADEMY STUDENT SUPPORT DEPARTMENT



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.



MEET THE TEAM



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 2 children who she loves spending time with.



Mrs J Watson

Assistant Learning Manager (SEN)

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 (EAL)

Ms Spires is the Learning Manager for EAL students at JPA. 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 Manager 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.



Mr C Enticknap

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mr Enticknap co-ordinates Literacy interventions for students at Jesmond Park Academy. He began his education career teaching Music, moving towards English after completing the CELTA qualification. He is passionate about languages, so as well as being a lifelong learner of English, he is multilingual, speaking French and German at intermediate level, and currently learning Ukrainian and Scottish Gaelic.

Ms N Chalder



Higher Level Teaching 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.

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!

Mr R Shortt



Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mr Shortt has worked at Jesmond Park Academy for 6 years as a Learning Support Assistant. He now runs the Student Support Base on a daily basis. He is a very experienced member of staff having worked with a variety of students with varying SEN needs.

Outside of school he loves spending time and playing with his 7 year old son, as well as keeping fit, whether that's in the gym or playing football. You will see him outside over lunch times, so if you ever want a chat about school, the match at the weekend or of course anything else then you know where to find him.



Miss S Rutherford

Learning Support Assistant

Miss Rutherford started at Jesmond Park Academy in September 2021 joining us from Sheffield University where she achieved first class honours in Sociology and Criminology.

Outside of school Sarah enjoys going to the gym and reading. She also loves going out for meals.



Mr T Wright

Learning Support Assistant

Mr Wright started at Jesmond Park Academy in September 2021 having previously been studying at Leeds Beckett University. At University he completed a Sport and Exercise course and in the future would like to become a PE teacher. Tom enjoys playing sport especially golf, squash and football. He is also a keen Newcastle fan.



Ms A Szymczak

Learning Support Assistant

Ms Szymczak is originally from Poland and is a qualified maths and physics teachers. She has worked at Jesmond Park Academy for 11 years, and has been involved in numerous roles such as being a special education needs teacher during a maternity cover, being a KS3 inclusion manager and helping students with English as their second

language.

Her main role is to support children, so they achieve their full potential in maths. She adores helping children and spending time with them. She also has a teenager daughter, who helps her to develop even better communication with students.



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.



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.



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.

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:
 - 1) Use English confidently and competently
 - 2) Use English as a means to learning across the curriculum
 - 3) Where appropriate, make use of their knowledge of other languages