

Pupils Interview Mr Inman our Headteacher



How long have you worked at Buile Hill?

Since 2008. I was deputy head for 2 years and we had a massive deficit budget we needed to sort out of around £1.8 million. The previous Head Teacher had no choice but to ask me to take on the job as I was the only person in school with the appropriate qualification. I have been Head Teacher for 8 years and loved (almost) every minute!

What career accomplishment are you most proud of?

I am most proud of our most recent Ofsted. Although the school was graded 'requires improvement' we received 'good' for leadership and 'good' for teaching. It was really important to me that the inspection team recognised the quality staff we had in the school. The inspector talked about the relationships that the students had with staff and the way that they talked about the care, empathy and compassion of people in our school and the family atmosphere. That meant a lot to me and a significant accomplishment in the current climate and external challenges faced by all schools.

Why do you want to work here?

That's pretty easy. I think Buile Hill is one of those places that you either love it or you hate it. When I came here I just felt that it was the place for me to be, I am trying my best to get out but I can't I just love it so much! There is a real attraction and magnetic force around this organisation which makes it really difficult to move on.

What is your greatest weakness?

I think my greatest weakness is that I get quite emotional and I am very passionate and committed to what I do. I wear my heart on my sleeve and sometimes that is not the best thing to do as a leader.

What are your strengths?

I am really committed to what I do, so if I embark on anything I will not stop until I finish what I am doing. I do really care about people and love working with children and will do anything for the children in my care. I really do think we have such a privileged and responsible role in society to open doors for as many young people as we can. I love to develop staff, and take pride in watching them progress in their careers either in our school or elsewhere.

What was your most difficult situation and how did you overcome it?

When my best friend lost his step daughter and I had to support him through a very bad time. I don't think he will ever recover from it. It was truly devastating and continues to be very painful for him and his lovely family.

How do you handle stress?

My family is really important to me and I have got a really lovely wife (Carla) and two brilliant children (Thomas and Samuel). So if I have had a bad day, we don't talk about school at home, it's one of our rules. I will go home and kick a ball around with the lads or we will go for a walk as a family. My wife moans a lot about doing exercise, especially when it's cold so it helps to take my mind off things at work while she pecks my head! Don't tell her I said that!

What are your life goals?

I want to be as successful as I can be in everything that I do, I understand that anyone who is successful makes mistakes and it is good to learn from your mistakes, reflect and not dwell on them too much. As long as I am working with children and people and creating opportunities for them to progress their careers for themselves and their families, that's where I will always be.

What is your best memory?

I have been going to the same house in Filey on holiday since I was a baby and we still go there with my extended family. Going to the beach with my Grandma and Grandad and family is amazing. So Filey has some really good memories for me.

What is your worst memory?

When my wife got pregnant and we went for the 12 week scan to check how the baby was doing, we were told she'd had a miscarriage. I am usually very good at finding solutions for things but I could do nothing or say anything to her to make her feel better. It was awful and I sympathise with anyone who has had to experience such pain.

What are your day to day responsibilities?

You name it I have to be responsible for it in school including making sure we have enough money to pay all the staff! Everybody's wellbeing, safeguarding and of course I have to try and make sure all the children get the best examination results possible.

Who do you consider to be your top competitor?

In my job you have to be politically savvy and astute. I have a real issue with how the national education system is run (and I am very opinionated) but I can't always express it as bluntly as that and I have to alter the way I say things depending on the audience. I find that really hard at times but I'm getting better at it. I think schools like ours in challenging circumstances are having a really difficult time with the Department for Education and Ofsted. So I think they are our biggest competitor. I do all I can to get influential people to listen to me and to understand what a brilliant job staff and students are doing in schools like ours.

Where do you picture yourself in 3 years?

I think I will be working for the Consilium Trust who are part of our wider family which has got 8 schools and is fantastic. I really hope that means working with Buile Hill as it's so important to me. So long as I am working for an honourable organization, that has values that I share and want the best for people, I will be happy. I hope to be working with people and children in some sort of capacity like that.

Who is your favourite staff member?

The thing I am most proud of in this school is the people in it. The staff play a hugely important role in making it successful. If you invest in the staff they will do anything for you and the organisation. I think they do a fantastic job in this school for the benefit of all our young people. Mrs Derbyshire is a really good buffer with staff and parents. She helps me a lot and knows my greatest weakness - my emotions! She helps me to calm (when every now and again I get angry) before I walk out of the door so I don't make a mess of it and make situations worse! I do value what everyone contributes to the school, so I don't really like to single anybody out.