



'GREAT TEACHING IS ALL ABOUT PASSION'

THE Bradford Meet the Teacher series is returning with a fresh batch of teachers who are all passionate about improving the lives of young people in the Bradford district. This series the teachers come from schools in the Dixons Academies Trust, one of the district's most successful academy chains which runs nine schools in the district and is due to open a Sixth Form Academy in September.

Each week teachers will share stories of how they were inspired to get into teaching, what makes a good teacher, and what life is like for a teacher in and out of the classroom. Shameem Azam is a raising standards leader in English at Dixons Cottingley Academy in Bingley.

Hi Shameem, what made you decide to be a teacher?

"I came into teaching because education changed my life and I understand the opportunities it can provide the young people we serve – I was one of them.

"From a very young age I had great role models in schools who instilled the confidence in me to be the very best person I could.

"As well as understanding the need to support young people academically, I passionately believe that teaching is about developing young people into mature adults."

What is your proudest achievement since you have been teaching?

"It has to be that moment when a young person realises that they can be successful.

"It thrills me every time I witness a young person's confidence grow."

What is the most challenging aspect to teaching?

"The unpredictable nature of the job is the most challenging aspect by far, yet it is what makes the profession so rewarding.

"Every day, no matter how planned and prepared you are, you never quite know what the day will bring.

"I can only describe it as a non-stop, uphill treadmill – one that keeps me on my toes."

Who was your favourite teacher and why when you were at school?

"Mrs. Deegan at middle school, because she always had a smile on her face and something positive to share with everybody. "It's obvious to me now that she loved her job and her enthusiasm was infectious. She encouraged me to have a 'can do' attitude-one that has shaped me as a teacher today."

What advice would you give someone wanting to get into



Shameem Azam, from Dixons Cottingley Academy, is taking part in the new series of Meet the Teacher articles



Shameem Azam aims to help improve young people's lives

teaching?

"If you know you want to teach, then teach.

"If you feel you can make a difference to a young person's life through education - both pastoral and academic - then you need to get yourself into a school and experience it for yourself. Honestly, there's no job like it."

What do you do for fun in the school holidays?

"I love to read, catch up with friends and spend quality time with my family, basically with life.

"Teaching is such a full time job, that we need the time to recuperate during the holidays."

Tell us about the funniest thing that has happened to you as a teacher?

"Well, my catchphrase when dealing with 'lively' pupils was always 'Don't make me call your

parents', in a bid to get the pupil to understand that a teacher's actions are determined by pupil behaviour, and that they are in control.

"That was until one of my most 'lively' pupils gave me a mug with the message engraved on it as a leaving present!"

What qualities do you look for in a good teacher?

"A great teacher is someone who is passionate about making a difference to young people's lives, and is relentless in achieving this goal. Young people are so full of life; every day brings new challenges. A teacher has to love teaching enough to live for those moments of reward."

A number of courses are available to help prospective teachers train; search Get Into Teaching online.

Are you Top Class?

IS your Year 6 class the cleverest class in the country?

Applications are now open for the latest series of CBBC show Top Class, which pits teams of Year 6 children and their teacher against one another to find out which school has the brainiest bunch.

Teams are made up of four pupils and one teacher in a general knowledge quiz, and if you think your school is the best of the lot, CBBC are urging teams to enter before this Friday's deadline.

Children that want to enter are being told to ask their teacher to email topclass@itv.com for more details, including their name, phone number, email address and school.

Teams will need to be available between May 20 and 24 for filming in Glasgow, and children will need the permission of a parent or guardian to take part.

The closing date for a completed application is Friday, April 26, so if you think your school has got what it takes to beat all-comers from across the nation to be crowned Britain's Top Class, make sure you enter before the deadline.

The programme, which has run for four series so far, is presented by Scottish comedian, writer and Strictly Come Dancing star Susan Calman.

The current series is reaching its end, with the semi-finals taking place.

To check out previous series, visit the BBC iPlayer website.

It's an experience.



More than
100,000
followers across
social media
channels combined.*

*Source: social media channel followers Nov 2018



Telegraph & Argus

To discuss your requirements:

01274 705115

sarah.charlesworth@localiq.co.uk
thetelegraphandargus.co.uk

LOCALiQ
localiq.co.uk