

*Ed Mountford has just joined the team at ACE Tiverton. We asked him to tell us a bit about himself and why he wanted to join the team at ACE Tiverton:*

I applied for the job in Tiverton as I was excited about working in a school that was new and that has a particular focus on the pastoral side of education; a school that has a whole school family ethos and that clearly puts the interest of the child first.

Recently I have enjoyed a brief stint as a Team Leader for the Prince's Trust which enabled me to develop my skills teaching outside of the classroom to a wide range of young people between the ages of 16-25 many of whom had additional learning needs. I loved it. It was great to see young people having such a positive impact on their communities and watching their personal development through the 12-week programme. And that motivated me to want to work with learners with additional special educational needs.

I qualified as a Teacher in 2008 and have mostly worked in Further Education. Initially I was a Health and Social Care and Uniformed Public Services Lecturer having previously served 5 years in the Royal Navy as a Medical Assistant before going to University. I then did my English A Level and changed subjects to teach English Language GCSE which I did for four years.

As the English lead in an alternative setting I see my role as facilitating the learner's innate curiosity and interests about the world around them through reading, and creativity. I love the power of words and how vocabulary helps us understand and be understood. Playing with language is fun and that is what I hope to bring to the subject at ACE.

I have a keen interest in 'conspiracies' which I hope to explore and bring to the classroom too. Conspiracies often capture the imagination and make enquiry a natural process rather than a school subject. We all have questions about why things are the way they are. Or at least appear. Welcome to the rabbit hole. Initially I had my reservations about Tiverton... as people from North Devon tend to... but the welcome has been warm and I couldn't have hoped to be made to feel more at home.

I would like to contribute to the development of the whole school and love extra-curricular activities outside of the classroom. Sports, outdoor adventure are all my cup of tea so I really want to get involved in all of these areas too.