

# Support for Schools in the Ipswich Opportunity Area from the Sharing Learning Team



The IOA Sharing Learning team are local leaders and practitioners, who have a good understanding of the IOA offer, significant experience in IOA priority areas and experience of successfully implementing and scaling up IOA funded projects.

All members of the team are working with Unity Research School and Ipswich Associate Research School to achieve EEF “Evidence Leader in Education” status this term.

Members of the team are available to support Headteachers, senior and middle leaders and practitioners in IOA schools with any of the following:



**A listening ear** a supportive, non-judgemental professional conversation about current challenges.



**IOA offers** Help to navigate the IOA offer - how can you make best use of funded support available?



**Best bets** A focused conversation about evidenced based approaches to improving specific outcomes – what does the research say about “best bets”?



**Making things stick** Help with implementation of projects or initiatives



**Measuring impact** Help to plan the evaluation of projects or initiatives



**Coaching for IOA “champions”** the team are also looking to support members of your staff who have made a significant contribution to your school’s learning – to support them in sharing more widely, and perhaps working towards the “Evidence Leader in Education” themselves

Their time is fully funded by the IOA, support is offered “without strings” and the team work independently – they do not report back to IOA or the LA about any aspect of the conversations they have with schools.

To book support from a member of the team contact Katrina Gardiner: [K.Gardiner@UOS.AC.UK](mailto:K.Gardiner@UOS.AC.UK) or Jacqueline Bircham: [Jacqueline.bircham@newanglia.co.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.bircham@newanglia.co.uk)

## The Sharing Learning Team are...



**Liz Donaldson**

School leader with over 25 years' experience including headship. Skilled in coaching and mentoring, performance management, curriculum design, classroom management, lesson planning, Nurture principles and behaviour management.

Bachelor of Education degree and PGCE in the teaching of children with SEND. Currently focussed on coaching and mentoring which is designed to support the professional learner through structured dialogue, formative observation and sharing of research and professional knowledge.

I strongly believe mentoring, coaching and co-coaching should be an integral part of CPD across any school for the whole staff and it contributes hugely to developing learning and teaching, quality outcomes for children and a successful professional learning community and cultivates devolved leadership across the school.



**Charlie Dawson**

I've taught secondary Mathematics for 27 years, 18 of which were as Head of Mathematics at Northgate High School, Ipswich. I taught pupils from the lowest prior-attaining students in Year 7 right up to Further Mathematics A level and several successful applicants to

Cambridge to read Mathematics.

For the past six years, I have recorded over 5,000 screencasts to help students at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level become better at learning mathematics independently. I have now started as a subject knowledge tutor for the Suffolk and Norfolk SCITT programme in addition to still teaching mathematics at Northgate and working for the IOA. I am currently supporting the development of an IOA remote learning and mentoring project to support Year 11s in Ipswich with Maths, independent study skills, and transition to post-16 study.



**Ann Waters**

Retired Primary Headteacher (Henley Primary School). I've worked in all ages ranges from 3 – 12 in a 40 year career, I've also worked overseas for many years in Africa, America and Europe. I love

travel, art galleries, really good coffee and David Beckham.

Interested and enthusiastic about supporting effective change in schools. Want to work alongside colleagues, supporting innovation but also streamlining workload to provide time for teachers to revel in their teaching skills. Time to remember the thrill of helping children to learn. Time to reflect on what a powerful and rewarding role teaching can be.



**Sue Todd**

Last academic year I worked as an IOA School Lead in an Ipswich primary school in special measures. Before this I was headteacher at Grange Primary, in Felixstowe, for 5 years and then St Matthew's, in Ipswich for 10 years.

I am totally committed to equity and inclusion. My work history has given me a real understanding of the many challenges facing schools.

I look forward to working with Opportunity Area schools to acknowledge, share and celebrate the many great things that teachers and support staff do, day in and day out, that have a positive impact on the children and their families.



**Abi Joachim**

Twenty years' experience as a teaching assistant and then English HLTA at Westbourne Academy. An undergraduate degree in psychology and a master's in education focused on SEND, with specialisms in dyslexia and reading interventions.

I led an IOA evidence-based project, with Unity Research School, delivering the Making Best Use of TAs (MBUTA) programme to secondary schools in Ipswich. Becoming a licenced trainer, I have begun to deliver the Maximising the Practice of TAs (MPTA) course to teachers and teaching assistants to develop pupil independence. As a result of this success, I have launched the Suffolk TA Network to promote and support the work of TAs across the county. I am excited to help schools effectively deploy and develop teaching assistants.