



Wyre Forest School Pen Portraits

Victoria Glass



Hello, my name is Victoria Glass and I am the Early Years Pathway Leader and Nursery Assessment Class teacher. I have taught in Early Years at Wyre Forest School for 8 years and really love working with our youngest pupils and their families.

I have taught in Special Education for eighteen years now and have worked with children across the Primary age groups with a wide range of special educational needs. I have taught both Reception and the Nursery Assessment Class at Wyre Forest School and feel privileged to be one of the first contacts our youngest pupils have with the school.

As Early Years leader I feel strongly that children learn best through play, and through experiencing a wide variety of fun, exciting activities when they are in school. It is important to me that families feel welcomed and supported by us as their children enter school and I believe in developing positive, nurturing relationships with the children so that they feel safe and secure in our care.

Natalie Mason



Hello, my name is Natalie and I am a Class Teacher in the Early Years Pathway.

This has been my first year of teaching in Early Years and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Year 1 teacher with complex and sensory learners in Pine Class. It has been a wonderful challenge and very different to the style of teaching and learning that I have experienced before. I am excited to be moving to Reception to Acorns Class in September to discover new challenges and to develop my understanding and passion for the Early Years style of learning through play and exploration of the world around us.

I have been a Class Teacher at Wyre Forest School for nearly 5 years. Initially I worked here as a Teaching Assistant and fell in love with the school and everything that it stands for. I was then fortunate enough to be able to complete two of my teacher training Special Education placements here for my SEND PGCE Qualification. In this time I have taught Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 learners with a wide variety of additional needs including Moderate to Severe Learning Difficulties, Speech, Language and Communication difficulties, Attachment Disorders and Autism Spectrum Disorders before moving into Year 1 in the Early Years Hub.

I continue to learn from the children each and every day and this is what I love most about my role. I look forward to working with you and your child in September. I'll see you soon.

Rosie Thorpe



I have worked at Wyre Forest School as a teacher since 2016, and previously as a teaching assistant in Blakebrook/Wyre Forest School since 2009 with a little 2 year stint in a diverse mainstream school in Worcester. My experiences in education have ranged from complex and sensory needs to Early Years, and this is my third year of teaching in Reception.

I love working at Wyre Forest School as it is a place that celebrates each child, for their wonderful achievements; be it sitting at a table to have a drink, giving eye contact with new people or learning to walk. I find so much joy in learning all of the children's quirks and ways of doing things.

I am so looking forward to September, and working closely with my class, whom I have mostly gotten to know during their time in NAC. My passions in class are to make every day fun, supporting children in using their voice, be it vocals, eye contact, gesture, visuals or spoken language, and also to support children in developing their independence.

Hayley Trenfield



I am long-standing teacher within the Early Years Pathway at Wyre Forest School, having taught Reception and year 1 classes for the past 7 years. Prior to that I was a SENDCo in a mainstream primary school. I always feel privileged to see the journey that children make throughout their time WFS. I can't quite believe that the first class that I taught here in their Reception year will be moving in to Year 7 in September!

In Oak Class we make each and every day memorable by having a variety of fun and engaging learning experiences through play. Our teaching is led by children's interests, and I believe that by fostering strong relationships with the children (and their families) we enable them to grow and develop, making progress at their own pace. I am looking forward to getting to know each and every child and their families when they join us in September and for those of you who have met me before I look forward to seeing you again.

Katie Shaw



My name is Katie Shaw and I am part of the Early Years Team at Wyre Forest School. This will be my sixth year teaching at the school. It is a privilege to be part of each child's journey as they go through WFS. I started teaching in Upper School for three years and after teaching in Reception for the last 2 years. I am looking forward to teaching in Year 1 from September, as I am already very familiar with the children and I am excited to continue seeing their learning grow throughout the year. In Pine class we encourage independence and creativity and lots of opportunities for fun learning. Our learning is led by the child's interests and we will offer experiences to try new things. I am looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Charley Curtis



My name is Charley and I have worked at Wyre Forest School for almost 7 years, as a long-standing member of the Early Years Pathway. I completed my teacher training as a student here at Wyre Forest, so you could say that I am 'home-grown'! This year I am excited to be starting a new venture within Pathway 1. I hope to embed my skills and experience from Early Years Practice into this new pathway, as well as expanding my knowledge and professional development.

Working at Wyre Forest is such a privilege. Each and every pupil that I have taught here has left me with lifelong memories, and I'm sure they will continue to do so. In Elm class, we will create a fun and engaging space where pupils can be free to be themselves, and will be encouraged to reach their full potential. Although we recognise there are challenges, I believe that building positive and trusting relationships with the team around the child, and most importantly the child themselves, we can break down those barriers and make school a happy place to be where pupils progress.

Laura Morris



I have worked at WFS for the past 7 years. I thoroughly enjoy supporting the staff within Pathway 1 and teaching our Pathway 1 learners. I have worked in Chestnut class for the past 3 years where I have supported the pupils learning, and seen them make progress in many areas. Next year, I will be teaching Birch class pupils, I am looking forward to getting to know the pupils, and supporting their development. I know we will learn a great deal, have lots of fun and of course, get messy!

Holly Owen



I have worked at Wyre Forest School since 2020 in Beech Class, Pathway 1. I find my role very rewarding and am privileged to watch the development of the pupils throughout the year across many different areas of our school curriculum. I enjoy getting to know each pupil as an individual, building on their motivations and interests to support their learning. Next year I will be working in Chestnut Class, I am excited to get to know the pupils and continue to support their Wyre Forest School journey.

George Hillman



Hi my name is George Hillman, I am a Class Teacher at Wyre Forest School in Kidderminster. I will be in my third year of teaching when I start in September. At my previous school I had subject responsibility in Physical Education. My aim is to make learning fun and engaging and I look forward to planning lots of exciting learning opportunities. In my spare time I coach football for Kidderminster Harriers and I support Aston villa. I also like to take my dogs out walking.

I am really looking forward to teaching your children and I can't wait to see you all.

Lucy Campbell



I have worked at Wyre Forest School since it opened, and prior to that, at Blakebrook for several years. I have worked across a range of ages and Pathways / learning groups within that time. For the past 8 years I have worked with complex needs / PMLD groups (now Pathway 1) and also currently have a responsibility for Intensive Interaction across the school. I'm looking forward to continuing to work within Pathway 1 next year, and further developing Intensive Interaction across the school.

Judith Smith



Working with children often means that no two days are exactly the same. I enjoy this aspect of working and developing relationships between everyone in class. I have been fortunate to work alongside colleagues in a variety of classes with varying abilities. Seeing individual characters develop as personalities shine through is always full of surprises. Although having worked with some students for many years, there is always something you've yet to learn about them as they transition through their teens. As a team, we are constantly surprised and like to celebrate individual achievements, scaffolding experiences that will engage the children. We work together, pooling our experience of relationships and pupil needs to best meet the learning styles of each pupil.

Emma Tolley



I will be the teacher in Alder Class. I Joined Wyre Forest School in September 2021, after completing my Primary PGCE in July 2021. I had previously worked with PMLD pupils as a TA and have experience working within a private nursery for nearly 7 years. I have really enjoyed working at Wyre Forest School this past year, in particular PMLD as no day is ever the same, creating a safe, happy, fun and stimulating environment for learning to take place.

It has been a real pleasure to teach my students this year and to see how each pupil has grown and developed in their own individual learning.

I am looking forward to continuing this learning journey with some familiar and some new faces in September, see you all then.

Adele Wrench



Hello! My name is Adele and I am very excited to be joining Wyre Forest School in September. I have been a teacher for eight years, working in a primary school in Kidderminster.

I am a mummy to two amazing children; 4-year-old Alicia and 2-year-old Sophia. We love spending lots of time exploring the outdoors – going on walks, having days at the beach and camping in our campervan. I also enjoy spending my time baking, reading and keeping fit.

I love being a teacher, helping pupils to learn new things and develop new skills. As a teacher at Wyre Forest School, I am looking forwards to getting to know my new class really well and planning lots of fun and creative activities for everyone to take part in. Some of my favourite resources are water, sand, playdough, Lego, books and the outdoors – I am excited to find out what your favourite things are so that we can use these as a starting point for our learning!

Louise Fulcher-Insull



I have worked at Wyre Forest School since it opened and before this worked at Blakebrook School. Throughout this time I have been privileged to watch many children mature and grow into amazing young people entering the world after school. I have spent the majority of my teaching career working with early years and key stage one and love seeing how much children change and develop during this time. I am currently teaching in Pathway 2.

I am looking forward to teaching the children again next year and working with them and their families. A second year together gives us the opportunity to learn and have lots of fun within the boundaries and routines we have already established.

Justine Ledwith



I am a teacher with 10 years experience of working at Wyre Forest School (my first set of learners are now teenagers, where did that time go?) I have taught all ages from reception to year 1 in the Early Years pathway, and years 2 and 3 in pathway 2.

It is such a joy to be part of the children's first steps in education at Wyre Forest and to see them grow and develop in a range of areas in their learning and independence.

The main focus at the beginning of any new school year is building strong relationships with the children so they feel safe, secure and ready to learn. We always start with building an understanding of what motivates each of the children and then we can include these strategies into their individual learning. In the classroom, we aim to create an environment that is calm but one that is stimulating and offers areas to explore linked to our topics and learning.

This year I will welcoming back the class that I taught last academic year. We know each other very well so can hit the ground running on our return in September! I look forward to supporting the children and their families as they continue their journey at Wyre Forest School.

Jodie Landon



I have worked at The Wyre Forest School for the last three years where I have had the opportunity to teach yr 9, 10 and then this year a mixed year 5,6 and 7 class. I am amazed every day by the achievements that every every one of our children make. Being part of and helping to facilitate their educational journey is a privilege.

In Maple class we will be focusing on enhancing communication and social interaction through everything we do. Developing and delivering a meaningful and individualised curriculum to every learner. Through practical, hands on learning opportunities, the children will thrive and progress both socially and academically whilst having having fun.

Through working together with parents; sharing strategies, achievements and challenges to ensure your child is able to reach their full potential.

I am really looking forward to next year and being part of your child's journey at The Wyre Forest School.

Emily Woodall



Hello, I am Emily, Willow class teacher. I have been working at Wyre Forest School for ten years now. I started by coming in for a weeks work experience and I have never left! After work experience, I began volunteering, I then covered in classes all across the school as a teaching assistant, where I enjoyed working in nursery, sixth form and everywhere in-between. I then did my teacher training and have now been teaching for five years. Since becoming a teacher, I have predominately worked within Pathway two classes, this year I have worked in Willow class and will continue to do this next year too. I am also Pathway Two Leader, which has been a fantastic opportunity to be part of the progression of Pathway Two and the curriculum offered to the pupils within the pathway.

My favourite lesson to teach has always been Communication and Interaction. I love supporting children to develop their ability to express themselves. I strongly believe in learning through play, to enable children to have fun as they learn and to lead their own learning to support them to make their learning memorable and meaningful. Therefore, we always have lots of sensory, small world and role play activities out in Willow class every day! I feel that having a fun, play based atmosphere enables children to develop strong relationships with the adults they work with, which is the best environment for learning to take place. I am thoroughly excited to work with the pupils (and families!) In Willow class again next year and cant wait to see you all after the summer.

Sophie Machin



I joined the WFS team in September, 2022. I am the class teacher in Sycamore class. This is my 6th year as an SEN teacher. Previously to joining WFS, I have had experience of teaching young people aged 7 – 19, with varied diagnoses and challenging behaviour. It continues to be my passion to minimise the barriers to learning to all young people by providing an individualised education, enabling our young people to grow and flourish. Having been with my class now for two weeks, I can honestly say that it is a pleasure to work with a wonderful staff team and I am privileged to teach our wonderful young people.

Zoe Wilkes



I am currently pathway 3 leader and having worked at Wyre forest for 9 years having taught across both primary and secondary age groups. I started here as a teaching assistant and have developed my skills and career by progressing to a teacher and then leader of department. I thoroughly enjoy teaching all the pupils that I have had the privilege of working with so far in my career and even more so love that I get to see so many more children progress throughout the pathway.

In Holly class we strive to develop our pupils in all areas of their development. Not only academically but building on their independence skills and emotional understanding to support them moving throughout the school and in later life. We focus on the areas of development, specific to the individual children and support their interests to allow them to thrive.

Rebecca Southall



I am a year 2/3 teacher who has worked at Wyre Forest School (and Blakebrook before the school changed location) since 2008. I have seen many pupils pass all the way through the school from reception all the way into sixth form. During my time at the school I have worked in the early years, and primary department up to year 6. I absolutely love teaching pupils in year 2 and 3. It is a very exciting time when all the skills they have been working on in the early years have prepared them to begin their journey into more formal learning.

In Larch Class we follow a curriculum where each unit of work is focussed around a central theme. This encourages the children's interests and provides a wide range of fun experiences where children encounter and explore activities with adults and friends. We use a carousel of exciting activities in every session including a teacher led focus activity where we will begin to develop some of the skills we need for literacy and maths as well as our world about us, creative and wellbeing topics.

Sue Jones



Hello my name is Sue Jones. I am currently teaching Rowan Class at Wyre Forest School and am excited to be working with this class again next year.

Every day as a teacher at Wyre Forest School is different, presenting new and exciting challenges and even bigger rewards.

Working closely with individual pupils and their families / carers is both a pleasure and a privilege, as we work together with our teams, to support every pupil to progress and reach their full potential. We work hard to achieve this, but always make sure that we have lots of fun along the way.

Connor Smith



I have been a part of Wyre Forest for 5 years now and in that time I have worked within many different areas of the school with varied ages and abilities. I began my time here as a teaching assistant in sixth form and then moved to the primary department. In this relatively short period it has been a pleasure to watch the students I have engaged with develop, not just within their academic abilities but also as young people.

In Poplar class we always try and make everything we do fun and enjoyable for the children as not only does it make my lessons more engaging but it also allows me to develop my relationships with each individual student. A positive student teacher relationship I feel is vital for all children and something that I strive to nurture from day one in the classroom. Whilst this year has presented its own challenges I have really enjoyed working with the amazing pupils in my class each day. I am looking forward to the next academic year and welcoming some new students into Poplar class.

Alex Johnson



Hi, I'm Alex and I am the teacher in Cherry Class. I am an Early Careers Teacher and have therefore recently gained my PGCE qualification in June. I have been lucky enough to spend a year as a learning support worker within an SEN school which allowed me to gain invaluable experience within this area of education. My undergraduate studies focused on Education, Psychology and SEN which I found both fascinating and eye opening. I am dedicated to helping learners achieve their goals and to develop into fantastic young adults. I am extremely passionate about sport and travel, and I love to involve a practical element to my lessons whenever appropriate! I am very excited about becoming part of the Wyre Forest family and my year ahead within Cherry Class.

Su Weston



I have worked with children with SEND for for over 35 years in both care & education settings, working at Wyre Forest School for the last 10 years. I am the teacher in Ash class within Pathway 3 following the carousel teaching approach & semi-formal curriculum. The children in Ash class benefit from kinaesthetic learning and 'hands on' learning experiences to support their understanding whilst building upon previous knowledge & skills.

In Ash class we encourage each child to have belief in themselves & their abilities, whilst promoting independence, supporting each child to 'have a go' without fear of failure. We teach 'skills for life' & support each child to become as independent as possible.

I look forward to welcoming new children into the 'Ash class family' in September building strong, trusting relationships with both children & their families. For the children & families who are already in Ash class, I am confident we are going to have another fantastic year.

Louise Calder



I began my time at Wyre Forest as a Teaching Assistant and have since worked in a range of school settings, in a range of roles. I am now the Pathway 4 Lead and Maths Lead for Wyre Forest School. Prior to returning to Wyre Forest School I worked as a class teacher within mainstream schools for 4 years. I have a real passion for supporting children to achieve all they can and providing them with the tools and experiences to do this in the most independent way so that they are best equipped for when they leave us here at Wyre Forest.

In Pathway 4 we provide our children with a bespoke curriculum which links both the National Curriculum and the Wyre Forest Progression steps. We do this through the use of practical hands on learning, offsite visits, play and various memorable activities. Pathway 4 is an exciting pathway that helps provide our pupils with what they need to succeed as independently as possible.

Nina Geithner-Hill



I have been teaching for over 15 years and have worked at two local schools. I am currently working at a school in Dudley. I live locally and have 3 daughters (a 9 year old and 6 year old twins). People often find my name difficult to pronounce – the Geithner part is because I am half German! My favourite things to teach are English and anything creative. I love being outdoors and am happiest in my garden, in the woods or on a beach building sandcastles!

I am a Wolves supporter and had a season ticket for many years. These days my hobbies are reading and I love going camping with my family.

I am so excited about working at Wyre Forest School as I have wanted to work here for many years!

Sam Harper



Hi, I have been teaching here at Wyre Forest for nearly 6 years. I am currently teaching year 10 in post 14. I enjoy teaching this pathway because we are giving the pupils opportunity to learn skills to help with their independence. Our curriculum is based upon independence and functional skills and I enjoy equipping pupils the tools to help them succeed in life outside of school. In my spare time, I like walking my dogs, climbing mountains, spending time with my family and CrossFit. I look forward to meeting you!

Fran Phillips



I am a form tutor and English Lead at Wyre Forest School. I have worked at Wyre Forest since it opened in 2015 and before that I worked at Stourminster School for five years. My experience spans both special education needs and mainstream education.

Wyre Forest School is an incredible place to work and I feel very lucky that I spend my days with our amazing pupils. The saying is, 'If you find a job you love, you'll never work another day in your life' and I find that very true of teaching here.

My aim is to enable all of the pupils to develop into the best versions of themselves through exciting learning and to prepare them to go out into the community and play an active part in it.

I am looking forward to working with pupils and to encourage them to have the same passion for English that I have.

Kate Sheridan



I'm Kate Sheridan and I am one of Wyre Forest's 6th form Teachers.

I have worked for this school since 2004, I have worked in many phases within the school from primary to 6th form and I can honestly say I am now feeling old seeing pupils I worked with in primary starting their 6th form journey.

Working in sixth form is an honour, we get to see our pupils at the end of their academic path and guide them towards developing independence and preparing them for when they leave school. As I have know many of the pupil I teach now from when they were very young I can see the progress they have made throughout the years and now see some very independent young people.

One of the main thing I love about 6th form is being able to get out and about in the community, seeing pupil thrive and interact with others. Travel training is now one of favourite life beyond school lesson, teaching pupils to access public transport is a real privilege.

Emma Kallitsakis



Hi I'm Emma and I'm a Teacher in Sixth-form.

This year I have had the pleasure of teaching some wonderful young people in 12K and helping them transition to adult life getting ready to leave Wyre Forest School.

Next year I am looking forward to teaching in sixth-form and helping students access the community more and grow into independent young adults.

I enjoy photography, baking, going on adventures with my little boy, and going on holidays.

Rosie Hopkins



Hi I'm Rosie and I work in Sixth-Form.

I really enjoy supporting young people at Blossom Tree Cafe and seeing them grow in confidence carrying out different job roles. I have also been involved in a new creative enterprise project we called "dancing leaves" and supporting students to make lots of crafts for our pop up shops in school.

I am very much looking forward to working in Sixth Form again this year.

In my spare time I love to dance, cycle and visit the cinema.

Naomi Baines



Hi, I am Naomi Baines.

I have worked at Wyre Forest School since 2016. I joined the Sixth Form in 2019 and really love it! The Sixth Form is a fantastic place - it has a really upbeat atmosphere.

I enjoy being able to take our fabulous pupils off site to so many different places like our allotment or to Zumba. I have been able to support students with work experience at the Blossom Tree Cafe in Springfield Park and I am so proud of the way our pupils handle customer service and food preparation. Being able to plan, budget, shop for and prepare meals with the pupils is a huge part of the curriculum and it is so rewarding to see the progress pupils make with their independent living skills over the course of the year.

This year I was excited to be able to develop my classroom to enhance the experiences of my pupils and am looking forward to continuing to adapt and create the spaces to promote a love of learning once more.

Part of my role as a Sixth Form teacher involves supporting our pupils and their families to prepare for life beyond school. It is amazing to observe the progression made by the pupils here, and to see them be ready and confident to tackle their next steps. Although it's always sad to see them go too!

I'm excited to continue teaching in Sixth Form, being able to explore the community and support our amazing young people to become as confident and resilient as possible.

Dan Archer



Having joined Wyre Forest School in September 2021, I previously spent over ten years in a two school Mainstream Autism Base.

The class team and I work hard to build strong relationships with children and families, working together to help children develop skills in all aspects of school life. Our teaching, is always personalised to the child, through a wealth of stimulating activities and experiences, a learning environment which enables all children to become engaged in their learning. The curriculum at Wyre Forest allows for a quality education in all areas.

Aimee Pearce



My name is Aimee Pearce, I am the lead teacher in Forest Pathway and joined the SLT in January 2022 to become Assistant Head with responsibility for Behaviour and well-being.

I am committed to creating and maintaining a culture to support pupil and staff emotional well-being, developing our knowledge and understanding of behaviour communication and working with teams across the school to enhance specific support for classes and individuals. I love working in Forest Pathway and I am enjoying getting to know pupils around the school. I want children to feel safe, special and have their own unique needs met in order for them to thrive and become the very best version of themselves they can be.

Outside of school I often travel to the Isle of Wight (which is where I am from), with my two dogs Freddie and Bear! I regularly jump on my spin bike and love outdoor cycling too.

Gareth Davies



I am a PE subject specialist teacher. I have been a teacher for 18 years, the last 9 years at Wyre Forest School. My aim is to provide all our students with the physical literacy to make PE, sport and exercise fun and a positive choice for life.

In my spare time I coach two football teams, both are affiliated to Halesowen Town. I have two teenagers, two dogs and five cats, so any spare time is spent walking or taxi driving my children around.

I enjoy working with children of all ages, my timetable has me working across 6 pathways and with a huge range of abilities, which is equally as challenging as it is rewarding.

Amy Scott



I am the PSHCE Lead Teacher at Wyre Forest School and have worked here for 7 years now. I am currently a class teacher within Post-14 and am passionate about helping to prepare our young people for life beyond school and to be able to lead as independent and fulfilling lives as they can. I feel incredibly grateful to be able to work at WFS where we place every child at the centre of all we do and where their personal development can be nurtured and celebrated. I am a lover of the great outdoors and was thrilled to be able to introduce the John Muir Award to our Post-14 curriculum giving our young people the opportunity to not only develop their skills and confidence but to be able to foster a lifelong love of the outdoors which is beneficial for their physical and mental wellbeing.