



You educate, we support



HLTA Case Study – August 2021

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As an eighteen-year-old, I thought I knew what I wanted to do. The world was my oyster. I decided to go to university to complete a degree which I thoroughly enjoyed. However once graduating, it was very difficult to get employed in the sector I had specialized in. After being unable to find employment in my chosen field I took on temping work. After a year I started my family and enjoyed raising my children until they started school and I decided it was now time to do something for me.

I was lucky enough to gain a job teaching English to adults but that all changed two years later. I was made redundant and fortunately was offered a job as an LSA in the school my children were at and that I had also attended as a child. I had previously volunteered there so was looking forward to this new step forward.

Being a 1:1 with two of the most beautiful children led me to wonder whether a career in children's education was the path for me. The following September I was offered the role of a teaching assistant in a Year One Class. This gave me my first opportunity to work with a wide range of children from different backgrounds and different needs and taught me how to reach out to them to meet their needs. I then began working in a Year Two Class. I was paired with an amazing teacher who taught me so much and was given the opportunity to often take the class and teach them in a way I felt was suitable for me. After this year, my new head teacher suggested I partake in the HLTA training. My confidence wasn't great at the time but she showed me that it was something I

could do. So, with trepidation I headed to the first two days of training. As soon as the trainer spoke and I got to know the other candidates I knew I had made the right choice. Our trainer explained everything we would be facing in such a way that I knew this would be something I could do. He explained the thirty-three standards we had to meet and I suddenly realized they were something I do every day. I then threw myself into completing my assignments and making sure I would fulfil everything required in the verbal assessment.

I found it a very positive experience fully supported by the Strictly Education Team. When I finally found out I had gained the HLTA status I was amazed. The other applicants and I were so happy for each other and still have a close bond. Since gaining the status, I have now been sharing a Year One class with another teacher which I have recently taken over as that teacher that has had to be away. I also took over a Year Two class for 3 weeks which involved me doing parents progress meetings, something I would never have been confident in doing without the support of my school or the HLTA process.

Now, I am looking into the future. Thanks to the confidence I have gained through the HLTA program and their ability to show me that I am meeting all the standards required every day, I am taking the next step and am about to embark on my teacher training!! I am so looking forward to it and I know it will be just as satisfying as my HLTA training.