



Testimonial



When I first joined RTMAT, I was working across different sites. From the beginning, each school made me feel welcome and I quickly felt that the Trust was a natural fit for me. Staff and students made me feel accepted and able to be myself in a way I had not always experienced in previous roles.

Before joining RTMAT, I had worked as a science teacher in mainstream schools, as a supply teacher on both short and long-term contracts, and in other alternative provisions across the Tees Valley. RTMAT is the place I have stayed the longest in my teaching career, which says a lot about the organisation and the people within it.

Since joining, I have been given the opportunity to learn, develop and progress in my role as Science Lead. I have been trusted to try new approaches, learn through trial and error, and grow with support and encouragement along the way.

As the Trust has grown, I have also had the opportunity to specialise and work mainly within the Hospital School, while still being able to work across the wider Trust. I hope to continue doing this even more in a Trust-wide role in the future. Each school has its own unique identity, but they are all connected by the same Trust values, which helps both staff and students feel a real sense of belonging.

One of the things I value most about working at RTMAT is the relationships I have built. I have formed lovely friendships with colleagues and developed strong relationships with students in a way I do not think would have been possible for me in the same way in a mainstream setting. Coming to work no longer feels like the chore it once did. There are still difficult days, but I know I have a team around me who will listen, support me and help me work through challenges in a calm and inclusive way.

I honestly do not know when, or even if, I would leave RTMAT. I feel part of the Trust now, and I see myself as part of its future in many ways.



Christie Storey

Science Teacher