



Meet the tutor

Debbie Emeny

Discovering teaching

I left school at 16, and completed an apprenticeship in electronic engineering. I stayed in the electronics industry for several years before leaving to run the family heating and plumbing business until it was sold.

I found myself as a single mum with 2 boys and felt I wanted a career change. I wanted something vocational and looked at the police force, midwifery, and teaching.

I started my degree in 2000, completing 4 years before doing my PGCE. I worked in mainstream for 16 years teaching years 7 – 11 and all 3 of the sciences at GCSE.

Needing a way to deliver more

I became disillusioned with not being able to meet the needs of many of my students. I came very close to leaving teaching but colleagues persuaded me to look at alternative provision – such good advice!

It revitalised my love of teaching as it challenged me to find different ways of teaching to meet the needs of the students. After working in two different alternative provision settings, I then felt like I needed a change – specifically the experience of teaching outside of the classroom which brought me to CF Group.

Challenging and ultimately rewarding

I currently have 4 very different students, who I work with weekly, face to face, including 2:1 support with a colleague.

I really like getting to know young people and tailoring my teaching to their learning style, ability and strengths, whilst also challenging them. I love a teaching challenge and using my creativity!

One student had not engaged in any learning for a long time, but we started to introduce a small amount, until he completed nearly 3 hours of Maths and English. He even took a book out of the library to read after stating he hated reading and books.

Prior to this I taught him how to play Pokémon which I love, and is one of my ways of engaging with young people. The game includes reading and maths so it enables me to get some idea of the student's ability.

A privilege

Working for CF is a completely new way of working for me. I really like the autonomy and the trust, whilst knowing the support is there when I need it. Being responsible for a young person's education is a responsibility I take very seriously, and I feel privileged that the young people I work with accept me into their lives in the way they do, when many have had such awful experiences in and out of education.