Strategic Leadership Team

Kacey Cuskelly
Head of School - New Directions

With over 20 years of experience dedicated to supporting young people across the globe, I have built my career on the belief that every child deserves a compassionate and inclusive education. My journey has taken me from classrooms in Japan to youth case management in Australia, ultimately leading to a decade of specialised work within Newham PRUs.

Working with vulnerable children across such diverse contexts has deeply fueled my passion for trauma-informed practice. I believe that understanding a student's individual story is the bedrock of effective support. By focusing on the holistic needs of the child, I am committed to developing targeted, impactful interventions that foster genuine progress and long-term development.

Kirsten MacLeod
Head Teacher

Drawing on over 30 years of experience as a teacher and Senior Leader in London, I am deeply committed to serving pupils across Newham PRUs and supporting vulnerable children in diverse, high-need contexts. My career is defined by a passion for dismantling the inequity of opportunity and ensuring that inclusive practice is realtime, lived reality.

I believe that effective, impactful support begins with understanding a student's individual journey. Through professional inquiry into student's educational and life experiences, I seek to ensure that the support we provide is rooted in a child's holistic needs. My approach bridges the gap between educational rigour and the therapeutic, creative support essential for sustainable, long-term growth and development.

Ricky Sparham
Deputy Headteacher Curriculum, Teaching and Learning

Having spent the last 14 years as a middle and senior leader in Newham schools, I am driven by the conviction that everyone deserves an outstanding education that ignites a passion for lifelong learning.

With a background in History, journalism, and public relations, I focus on empowering staff to deliver a highly engaging curriculum that inspires students to truly want to learn. My favourite part of the job is witnessing the moment a student's relationship with education becomes positive, ensuring they leave us believing they are capable of shaping a fulfilling life.

Liburd Henry
Head of School- Tunmarsh

A proud lifelong resident of Newham, I bring over 25 years of experience within the borough's Pupil Referral Units from my role as teacher to Head of School. My leadership is uniquely informed by a prior career in professional football, where I witnessed firsthand how sport can serve as a catalyst for personal growth and advancement.

This background drives my commitment to a coaching-led leadership style, centered on identifying individual assets and empowering both staff and students to reach their full potential. Above all, I believe that positive, nurturing relationships are the foundation of a successful education, and I strive daily to build a culture of mutual respect, compassion and excellence within the Newham community.

Yasmine Dhillon
Deputy Headteacher Inclusion and SEND

After 22 years in both primary and secondary education working as a teacher, middle leader and senior leader in and around London, I remain firmly driven by the belief that every child deserves a path to success, regardless of the barriers they face.

With a background in psychology, business and fine art, I focus on building a curriculum that is inclusive by design and a school culture rooted in high expectations and resilience. My favourite part of the job is working alongside families to navigate complex transitions, ensuring our pupils leave us with the confidence and opportunities they need to truly thrive.