



A Personal Perspective from Beth McPhail

Thank you for your interest in this post. We hope that you will take the time to read this information and visit our school to find out more about our amazing students.

Hazelbeck School is a popular, oversubscribed generic special needs secondary school which was judged to be outstanding in all areas in our most recent Ofsted inspection (February 2015). We have a highly motivated and skilled staff team who are passionate about seeing students succeed and ensure that they are at the heart of everything that we do.

Our aspiration is to become one of the finest examples of special education in the country. We want to explore innovative ways of providing the very best learning opportunities for our students. We aim to ensure they make maximum progress in all areas of their life thereby providing them with the skill to go on to have successful futures. Our curriculum is underpinned by key drivers which promote independence, communication and functional skills. We take every opportunity to promote the wellbeing of our students so that they are confident to go out into the world and succeed.

Our core purpose is to 'inspire and excite each Hazelbeck learner to have a thirst for learning so that they can strive to make outstanding progress and to succeed.' We want all of our learners to be active participants in their learning (Hazelbeck Strategic Vision 2015-18).

As a school team we have created the Hazelbeck Strategic Vision 2015-18. It outlines strategies that will create the kind of Hazelbeck learner we want to see: one who is confident, independent, excited, successful and safe. It identifies four broad priorities linked to:

- a) Ensuring that all teaching and support for learning is consistently good or better day to day. A particular focus on sharing best lessons, collaborative practice, research and innovation, and joint development projects working with Beckfoot.
- b) Ensuring that we have a curriculum that challenges and excites students to learn. We want it to prepare all learners for the next stage in their lives.
- c) Enabling all staff to grow as leaders and educators through in-house training. We are very committed to leadership training for all staff.
- d) As a centre of excellence we will further develop school-led improvement.

Alongside these priorities we manage data effectively so that we can measure accurately the impact of our work on the progress of every child in every class through the school.

We are very fortunate to have a new school building with wonderful facilities including a swimming pool, rebound room, and specialist rooms such as textiles, food technology, a salon and apartment. Through our co-location with Beckfoot School, we are able to share facilities across both schools. We are very excited by the fact that we are co-located with Beckfoot and are part of the Beckfoot Trust. Being part of this family of schools give us greater opportunities

for inclusion and collaborative work both for students and for staff. We also have extensive links with external agencies to provide support for students.

To work at Hazelbeck you must aspire to be an outstanding colleague. You must be willing to share and to learn. You must be prepared to go the extra mile, be a leader and not a follower. Above all else, every Hazelbeck member of staff must like young people and work tirelessly to enable them to gain as much independence as possible. Schools are no place for cynics; we only appoint positive people who want to make a difference. In return we provide our staff with excellent working conditions, a structured professional development programme and the resources to carry out a professional job.

We are excited by what we are doing here. There is a strong moral dimension to all our work. We believe that what we do at Hazelbeck prepares our students with skills that they can transfer to their lives when they have left school. We want to continue to grow as a learning community. Our school motto is 'ENJOY – LEARN – SUCCEED'. If you relate to that value, you feel inspired by working alongside students and believe you have the qualities needed to contribute towards Hazelbeck's development, then please apply.

Beth McPhail
Headteacher