



Sam Leatherbarrow

Secondary Art teacher
A-Level/GCSE/IB

My Ethos

For me, teaching is about creating an environment where students feel comfortable trying things, taking risks, and not being afraid to get things wrong. I want them to see mistakes as part of the process and to realise that they're capable of much more than they often think they are.

Education

BA – Fine arts and design
Fine arts design (Architecture)
university of Sunderland
2017 – 2019

PGCE – Secondary Fine arts and design
PGCE (Fine arts and Design)
Northumbria university
university of Sunderland
2019 – 2020

MA – MA Psychology **Current**
Psychology (Child and adult)
Arden University

QTS – Secondary Fine arts and design
QTS (Fine arts and Design)
Department for Education (DfE)
Awarded: 2020

Experience

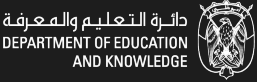
Star International school
HOD Art and DT / Head of innovations
Dubai – Mirdif 2020 – 2024

ANS
Art Teacher – Secondary
Thailand – BKK 2024 – 2025

GEMS Metropole **Current**
Art teacher – secondary / primary / ASDAN (SEN)
Dubai – Motor city 2025 – 2026

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About me

I am currently an Art Teacher at GEMS Metropole School for the 2025 to 2026 academic year. In this role I teach Art across Primary and GCSE levels, as well as Psychology, managing my own ASDAN class and supporting students through creative and practical learning pathways.

I have developed a particular interest in teaching ASDAN, as this has been a new area for me to learn and develop in, especially in relation to differentiation. ASDAN involves working with a dedicated arts SEN class. As I am currently studying Psychology, working with this class has allowed me to apply my studies directly to my educational practice, particularly when supporting the development of motor skills and adapting lessons for students with more complex learning needs.

Prior to this, I worked at Star International School Al Qusais from 2020 to 2024, where I progressed from Art and Design Teacher to Head of Design and Innovation. During my time there I navigated significant curriculum changes, transitioning from Fine Art to Graphic Communication, and established a Design Technology department from the ground up. This led to my promotion to Head of Department and later Head of Innovation, where I focused on embedding creative learning approaches and emerging technologies such as VR into the curriculum.

I have developed a fair and constituent approach to teaching and pride myself in developing positive and meaningful relationships with my pupils.

I have experience in teaching ages 8-18.

I am passionate about creativity, innovation in education and continuous professional development, and I aim to contribute positively to both the academic and wider school community. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my experience further.