

Meet Claire

Commanding Officer Y Company
Northumbria Army Cadet Force

Vice Principal, Kenton School



I have worked with the Army Cadet Force since 2011. This has allowed me to experience various leadership posts and develop my leadership skills in a very different environment. I was promoted to Major during a field exercise in August 2022.



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THE FIVE-MINUTE INTERVIEW

1. Tell us a little about how you got into teaching? Was it always something you wanted to do?

I absolutely adored school and assumed that everyone had a similar experience to me. When I started 6th form and university, meeting new people and hearing their experiences, I realised that this was not true. I want all pupils to enjoy school, to be able to look back and know that they had so many opportunities and support to develop their character. As Vice Principal I can positively influence young people who will develop the future - not only of our communities and our country - but also for our planet. I cannot think of a more exciting career!

2. What aspect of your job at Kenton School do you love most?

Spending time with the pupils before school, every break and lunchtime while on duty. You get the opportunity to talk to the most talented, intelligent, interesting, caring and absolutely hilarious young people.

3. What are the personal qualities that make a great teacher in your opinion?

Communication, being a great listener, resilience, detailed subject knowledge, a love and passion for your subject and good time management.

4. What would be your personal message to anyone thinking of developing a career with the Northern Leaders Trust at your school?

Work hard and you will be rewarded. Always consider how you can support initiatives and don't be frightened to share your ideas and comments. This is how we are greater - by all leading together.

I really enjoy the professional challenge provided at Kenton School, whether that be supporting staff in identifying a pupil's academic needs and planning interventions; supporting students to develop their resilience and character through enrichment activities; or helping some of our young people to make tough pastoral decisions. Every day offers something different and a new challenge.

5. What about your work-life balance? What is your great passion or the thing you love to do most out of school that allows you to do your job better inside school?

I have worked with the Army Cadet Force since 2011. In 2014

I successfully completed a commissioning board and was awarded a Queens Commission. This has allowed me to take various leadership posts in the Army Cadet Force.

In Kenton School, we have also developed our own Combined Cadet Force and parade at least once a week. Our CCF is so strong, we have a waiting list to join.

6. Tell us about some of your personal achievements in your time out of school and wearing your 'passion hat'!

The Army Cadets has allowed me to complete numerous courses to stretch and challenge myself, developing and learning new skills. I was promoted to Major during a field exercise in August 2022 and have recently taken post as Commanding Officer Y Company Northumbria Army Cadet Force.

Over my time with cadets and under my command, we have won detachment awards, regional and national awards in sports, orienteering, shooting and military history research presentations, for example, most impressively for the last two years, we successfully secured the most sought-after award; Champion Company in Northumbria.

I have been taught and assessed on first aid by national leaders and have been able to pass this onto young people, one of whom used these skills to support his mother when she was very ill. I have also completed 12 cadet annual camps (away for two weeks, training young people) and over 40 company camp weekends, four overseas exercises and numerous UK exercises/parades.

I want young people to be in a position to choose their future because they have the skills and qualifications to open the doors and my work with the Army Cadets plays a big part in this.

Claire has worked at Kenton School for 15 years and has held her current role as Vice Principal for one year. Reporting to the Principal, she is responsible for DEEP Learning and Teaching & Learning across the school.

If you're ready to grow with a progressive Trust, contact us today for more information.

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