

# Workplace Wednesday: Mr Sheridan

## **Background and qualifications:**

Today, we are interviewing Mr Sheridan, a PE teacher at President Kennedy School. With over 27 years teaching experience, Mr Sheridan is a perfect example of dedication to a career. Mr Sheridan obtains masses of incredibly valuable skills, ranging from leadership to developing positive relationships with students, many of which we are going to discuss today.

As a student striving in sport, Mr Sheridan began his teaching journey as a House Captain in his secondary school. When graduating from his school, he received qualifications in a plethora of subjects ranging from biology to history. Upon finishing his A-Levels - in geography, history, economics and general studies - he studied Physical Education at university level.



## **Work Experience**

Mr Sheridan values his early work experience, volunteering to support younger students during a "summer-school scheme". This opportunity truly highlighted the importance of making a difference, as Mr Sheridan was able to teach young people sports skills through event-based learning. Through this mentorship, Mr Sheridan had the opportunity to demonstrate important workplace skills such as communication, leadership and teamwork- all of which he now utilises on a daily basis.

## **Subject Specialism:**

In his first years working as a qualified teacher, Mr Sheridan taught PE and introduced BTEC PE into President Kennedy. Over the years, Mr Sheridan developed his vocation by becoming a pivotal figure in the school, as Head of PE. Eventually, Mr Sheridan decided that he wished to be more directly involved with students' progress. Therefore, he became the Deputy Head of a year group, and is now the Year 11 Progress Leader. Part of Mr Sheridan's current leadership role involves him working as a member of the College Team, holding Student Council meetings and most importantly ensuring every student makes progress -academically and personally.

## **Skills for success:**

In response to the ideas surrounding transferable skills that teachers should display, Mr Sheridan believed that teachers should obtain traits such as mutual respect, trust and patience. However, the skill of developing positive relationships with students is definitely a priority for Mr Sheridan. Through his "open-door" policy, Mr Sheridan is a welcoming face that many students trust as a confidant, especially through his pastoral work. Moreover, Mr Sheridan emphasised that his favourite parts of his school experience were the memories that "form you into the person you become".

## **Your ideas:**

In this section, we explore your ideas, please do continue submitting questions:

***"What is the jump from GCSE to A-Level like?"***

*When studying his A-Levels, Mr Sheridan developed a concise understanding of self discipline. Stating that the jump from GCSE to A-Level was a clear opportunity to exhibit "self discipline and gain academic self control through lengthy assignments".*

***"What is the toughest part of your role?"***

*Ultimately, Mr Sheridan argues that the toughest part of his role is the difficulty to find a "happy medium" with his students, particularly when dealing with objection and lack of motivation from students.*

***"Who was your biggest inspiration?"***

*Mr Sheridan deeply valued the support of his teachers and rugby coaches, he feels as if they laid the foundations of his skills.*