

Jamil Wali – Case Study

Why did you choose school direct?

- Why did you decide to apply?

Having been a former EAL student at Kings Leadership Academy of Liverpool, with English being my fourth language, I have been blessed with an outstanding education by teachers who have inspired me and I would like to follow their example and inspire subsequent generations.

- What is your subject area and why did you choose it?

Having a strong desire for Maths, I wish to challenge and motivate pupils to becoming more numerate. The growing concern of Maths anxiety requires passionate teachers like me to generate a love for the subject. I am confident that so far, my experience from placements at Kings, will enable me to become a successful teacher at our school. My aim is to reinstate the growth mindset as everyone thinks that either you are born able to do Maths or can't do it at all.

Your placement

- What was the most important thing you learnt during your placement about the skills needed to teach

Behaviour management – something I am always worried about but if I look at the progress I made, it is huge. To tackle behaviour; you need to take yourself seriously. You need to act how you want pupils to see you so they buy into you. I also learnt the importance of a good start to a lesson. Lineups at Kings have ensured my lessons to go smoothly and allows me to deal with any issues before pupils even enter the classroom.

Pedagogy – I learnt how to structure a lesson. Learning in Maths is all about teaching composite topics before teaching the final topic. For example, I can't just walk into a classroom and teach Pythagoras's theorem. I have to ensure pupils know enough prior knowledge so that I can teach a new skill. So, for Pythagoras Theorem, Pupils need to know how to square numbers, how to rearrange a formula, how to substitute numerical values in expressions, how to square root, how to identify different parts of a right-angle triangle. I also learnt that students learn best when they have a lot of independent practice.

- What support have you received during your training? Examples include mentors, your peers on the course, your university tutor

Mentors – I have learnt most about teaching from my mentors. They come up with targets to meet every week. They constantly give me advice to help me succeed.

Observing – From observing classes, I picked up range of skills.

School Direct training days – having days where we focus on an important aspect of teaching such as SEND, EAL etc has helped us get a better intel of knowledge around the topics I know little of. Though being a former EAL pupil I didn't know there was this much that went on backstage.

Conwy trips – I have been given opportunity to go to Conwy which has led to my relationships with year 9's to becoming stronger and me teaching them to go better.

- Do you have any inspirational stories from the classroom?

I taught a 7x01 in Hawthornes on solving equations. I showed them that there are two solutions to a square root and they were mind blown.

At kings Liverpool, there is a year 10 pupil being entered to do a Further Maths GCSE alongside year 11's. His friends have seen this and have been inspired so I started a year 10 after school further Maths club to give them a head start and to encourage them to do a GCSE on further Maths in year 11.

My year 9 class got told that I had a job interview at Kings Liverpool, I later got the job and they all congratulated me with happiness in our next lesson.

Tips for future applications to school direct

- What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about teacher training?

The only thing that nearly stopped me from applying was behaviour management, but I am glad it didn't stop me because I am having the time of my life. Set your standards from day 1. Don't come into the course with the mindset that you are going to be a cool teacher as it won't work. Set boundaries and you will ace it.

- Any Advice for writing a good application?

Have something that drives you and talk about it passionately.

- Any advice about the interview?

You want to sell yourself and what you are about. Confidence is key to succeed. When answering questions always give examples so for example, when saying you are passionate, give an example, why are you passionate?. If saying you want to be a teacher to change lives, then say how you are going to do this, why you want to do this? Has a teacher changed your life?