



Skippers Hill Manor
Preparatory School

Introducing

Mrs Van Dyk

Year 8 Form Teacher

Year 7 and 8 English Teacher

Joining

Skippers Hill Manor
in September 2018

What attracted you to the role at Skippers?

When I came to visit the school, I was really impressed with not only the stunning location and grounds, but just how friendly and welcoming the team and the children were. I feel that cherishing individuality is so important and I am really excited about having the chance to contribute to the broad and exciting curriculum that is offered at Skippers. It felt like one big family - I was even more excited when I found out about Lottie the dog!

What skills and experience can you bring to Skippers?

I have ten years of experience working in schools, both within the UK and internationally, across a variety of year groups. I have previously taught a full curriculum and have an in-depth knowledge of assessment. I have a real passion for English and I'm really excited to develop this further at Skippers. I acted as a judge for the BBC Radio 2 500 Words competition earlier this year and have been a marker for the end of Key Stage 2 assessments. I'm looking forward to getting stuck into extra-curricular activities and the wider life of the school.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

When I completed my degree, I wasn't immediately sure what I wanted to do. I began working as a boarding house assistant at a school in Edinburgh. I was responsible for the pastoral care of the younger boarders, and organised trips and activities for them after school and at weekends. It was a role I really found rewarding, so I soon began to volunteer in the classroom too. I then went back to university to gain my PGCE and have been teaching ever since!

What's the best thing about being a teacher?

Building relationships with pupils and the lasting memories. I love that I get to have an exciting day, every day! It is very difficult to have a boring day when you are a teacher. It is a wonderful feeling when children find learning exciting and I also find that as a teacher, you are constantly learning new skills. I had no idea that I was able to referee handball games, choreograph dances, write lines of computer code or recreate crime-scenes until I became a teacher.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I love spending time with my family and friends over the weekends. I am kept busy with a toddler at home who keeps me up to date with new children's books! I also have a lovely dog called Cleo who came all the way over from Egypt with me. We enjoy going for walks, travelling and exploring new places.