

Registered Address:

c/o St. Helen's Church of England School  
Abbotsham  
Bideford  
Devon  
EX39 5AP

Neil Moir  
Chief Executive Officer



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Please welcome the two new inclusion workers who are joining the Alumnis Multi-Academy Trust.



James started his career as Performance Analyst at Plymouth Albion Rugby club after graduating from Marjons University in Sports Coaching. Alongside working with professional athletes, James spent his time coaching within inner city schools and this fired up his passion for working with young people.

After moving back up to North Devon, James worked in a variety of childcare and education settings in both primary and secondary. For the past three years, James has worked in residential care settings for children as well working with young people and their families setting up alternative education provision outside of mainstream school.

James is passionate and committed to working with young people, supporting their engagement to learning the essential skills needed to make the next step in their life journey. James is excited to join the team having been impressed by Alumnis' pupil focused approach and forward thinking. He is

really looking forward to getting to know the whole community at Alumnis. James is an avid rugby player and coach and alongside his role at Alumnis, James works at Exeter Chiefs for Hawk-Eye assisting the independent doctor with the Head Injury Assessments.

James lives in North Devon with his partner and their cockapoo, Gus. He enjoys weekends on his sailing boat, walking, travelling, cooking and of course playing and watching rugby!

Sonia moved Devon in 2017 with her husband, three children and two dogs. She began her career in 2007 following completion of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work. After working for a local authority for a number of years, she learnt that families had often needed help and support long before they were referred to statutory services. This knowledge prompted her to move to work with families at the earliest opportunity within education services to ensure all families can get the right support at the right time.



Sonia feels that working closely with children and their families within a primary setting is a real privilege, and enjoys being able to offer support to children, listening to their views and aspirations and working closely with their parents and carers too. She believes every family has strengths and is passionate about using these strengths to support families to find their own solutions to difficulties. Sonia believes that children achieve best when they feel happy and safe, and works alongside children, parents, carers and schools to ensure every child has the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Outside of school, Sonia enjoys the outdoors as much as possible, walking, cycling and making the most of the beautiful North Devon coast.

### ***What support can the Social Inclusion Team offer?***

The Social Inclusion Officers work with families in many different ways, depending on individual needs. Their main focus is to work with families to overcome barriers and enable pupils to engage fully in their learning and C360.

They do this by:

- Offering advice and information around behaviour, strategies to try, where to get help or more specialist advice and support;
- Signposting and referring families to other agencies who may be able to offer specific advice and services, such as financial support, housing advice or help with setting up routines and boundaries within the home;
- Coordinating support for children to ensure they have every opportunity to reach their potential - Visiting family homes or meeting outside of school;
- Working with children to develop their self-esteem and confidence;
- Working with children to help them make sense of any difficulties they may have experienced.





### ***Specific support through lockdown***

If you do not have fixed broadband at home, can't afford additional data for your mobile device and your child is not in school, then you may be eligible for a temporary increase to your data allowance to ensure your child can access their online learning.

Please get in touch with James or Sonia with any queries.

### ***How to contact the team***

James and Sonia can be contacted on **01237 879 382** and will also be on site at different schools over the coming weeks as follows:

	Sonia	Tuesdays 9am to 4pm
	James	Tuesday 9:30am to 5pm
	Sonia	Monday & Wednesday 9am to 4pm
	James	Thursday 9:30am to 5pm (at The Clinton School)



James


Wednesday 9:30am to 5pm



Sonia

Thursdays 9am to 4pm

This is an exciting development and addition to the Alumnis family which will offer much support to our school communities.



Mr G Bladon  
Headteacher




Mr D Railston  
Headteacher



Mrs C Lewis  
Headteacher



Mrs G Holmes  
Headteacher



Mrs R Sharpe  
Headteacher