

## Mrs Lisa Thompson



Hello to everyone at Countess Gytha.

I cannot stress enough how delighted I am to be able to re-join your lovely school community this September. I always felt that my time at Countess Gytha was too short and I am very much looking forward to reconnecting again with all the children and families that were so welcoming when I joined as Assistant Head. It will also be a pleasure to play a part in ensuring that all the fantastic work started by Preston Primary Academy Trust (PPAT) and Mrs Goodland can be continued and developed.

As many of you already know, I completed my teacher training later in my career after initially working in Hotel Management, Office Management and most recently for Avon & Somerset Police. I then spent a number of years in local schools developing my expertise in early years, special educational needs and initial teacher training and NQT mentoring.

My year as Head Teacher at North Cadbury C of E Primary School has enabled me to put many of those skills to good use, as well as further developing the experience I gained at Countess Gytha. I am proud that North Cadbury has thrived this year, and I have been an integral part of the development of a fantastic sense of shared community between parents, teachers and children alike. This was something I felt had started to develop strongly at Countess Gytha too and I am really looking forward to continuing that with the friendly Queen Camel community, and the wonderful team at Countess Gytha.

I am also excited to be able to work alongside Mr Luke Talmage to bring our joint skill set to Countess Gytha. Mr Talmage is a very experienced Head Teacher, and between us I believe we will complement the existing staff team at Countess Gytha and work together to further develop this lovely school and ensure that Countess Gytha truly thrives.

As and when lockdown restrictions are loosened further, it will be lovely to reconnect in person. For now I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Lisa Thompson

## Mr Luke Talmage



Dear Children, parents and carers.

It is with much pleasure that I introduce myself to the school community of Countess Gytha. It will be a delight to work with the children, families, staff, Mrs Thompson and the Governing Body for the next academic year.

I have been Head Teacher at Manor Court Primary School, in Chard since April 2017 and was appointed prior to the school becoming an Academy sponsored by the Preston Primary Academy Trust. Prior to my arrival, Manor Court consistently failed to meet a 'Good judgment' in the eyes of Ofsted and was last judged to be higher than Satisfactory in 1998. Manor Court has consistently achieved high results for the past three years and was judged to be secure 'Good' by Ofsted in December 2019.

Prior to my appointment at Manor Court, I was Head Teacher of Hamp Academy (a diverse and economically challenged Junior school) in Bridgwater for five years and was Assistant Head Teacher at Preston Primary School in Yeovil until September 2012. Under the tutorage of Bernie Green (CEO of PPAT) I was trained and used to support schools in challenging situations and have subsequently gained a strong reputation in school improvement working for Somerset Local Authority as a Local Leader in Education.

As a Head Teacher of Countess Gytha I will pride myself in building a school community that is inspiring, embracing, caring and which has the highest of expectations and aspirations for children, staff, parents and governors alike. Open and honest communication is the foundation to all actions, as is placing children at the centre of all.

I was fortunate to gain a Masters' degree in History from the University of Southampton and qualified as a teacher at Bath Spa University. I live in South Somerset and enjoy listening to live music, travel and have a not so secret passion for Yeovil Town Football club!

I look forward to meeting you all soon.

With all kind regards.

Luke Talmage