



**WESTHOLME
SCHOOL**

Name and qualifications	Francine Smith BSc(Hons), PGCE, FRSA
Year joined Westholme	2014
Education	Wilmslow High School and then Brunel University for my undergraduate degree. After a break of 5 years I returned to Manchester University to do my PGCE
Brief career history	I worked for a Japanese investment bank in the City after graduation and then a large telecoms company where I did graduate recruitment and management development. Before leaving to start my PGCE I did a short stint as executive assistant to the Chief Executive. After completing my PGCE, I moved to Northamptonshire and did 4 years at a large state comprehensive before switching to the independent sector as Head of Economics & Politics and Underhousemistress at Stowe School. In 2008 I became Director of Sixth Form at Northampton High School, a girls' day school.
What attracted you to Westholme?	I was hoping to return to the North West to be nearer family and friends and when I came to Westholme I was immediately impressed by its friendliness and sense of community. Students and staff all seemed pleased to be here – and now I know why!
Brief description of role in School	Being Academic Deputy Head puts me in charge of all things curriculum, teaching and learning based. I am responsible for the timetable and making sure all staff and students have lessons to go to! Alongside that I also work closely with Heads of Department to ensure teaching is of the highest standard and with the pastoral team to help students stay on track and achieve their very best. With so many changes in the pipeline across the curriculum and for examinations, it's a busy job!