

**MAKING  
LIVES  
BETTER**

# TEAM TALK

*MEETING THE PEOPLE  
WHO MAKE LIVES BETTER*

## **Abbie Conway**

- Attended St Cuthbert's as a student
- Left St Cuthbert's in 2017
- Has 2 miniature dachshunds-  
Pollie and Pippa



*The Best That We Can Be*

**ST TERESA  
of CALCUTTA**  
Catholic Academy Trust



# Meeting the People Who Make Lives Better



## What's your perfect weekend?

My perfect weekend would be at home, cuddled on the sofa with my 2 miniature dachshunds, Pollie and Pippa, watching my Christmas tree sparkle whilst Home Alone 2 plays on repeat. I also love to be with my niece and nephew, Leo and Lily, being an auntie is the best role in the world!

## Describe a moment in your current role that made you feel especially proud.

The proudest moment for me, on a personal level, was securing my role here at St Cuthbert's. As a former pupil (who only left in 2017!), being offered such an important position within the school – by colleagues who were once my Head of Year, Deputy Headteacher and Welfare Lead – felt incredibly special. St Cuthbert's gave me so much as a student, and it means a great deal to now play a part in giving today's pupils that same sense of support and belonging. I'm always deeply touched when parents and students express their appreciation for the work I do; nothing quite compares to the feeling of knowing you've made a difference.

## If you could instantly learn a new skill to use in your role, what would it be?

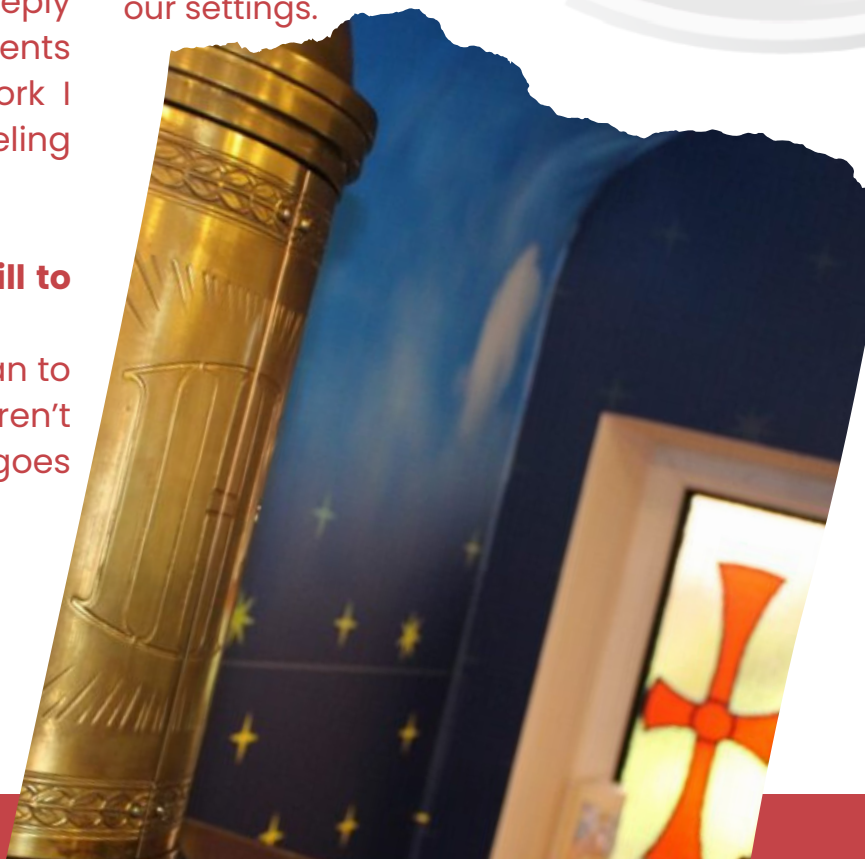
I think I have no other choice other than to say to be able to freeze time! There aren't enough hours in the day, and time goes so quickly!

## What do you think makes your school a unique place to work or learn?

I genuinely believe this is a very special place. I may sound biased, having been both a pupil here and now a member of staff, but the children and staff truly are exceptional. Our pupils are remarkable young people. They are some of the most resilient, motivated, and inspiring individuals I have ever come across. It's an honour to work alongside colleagues who provide outstanding care and education every single day. I am incredibly proud to be a part of St Cuthbert's.

## If you could swap roles with anyone in the Trust for a day, who would it be and what would you hope to learn?

I think I would like to step into the role of a safeguarding colleague from another school within the trust. It would be valuable to see the themes they encounter, how they support their students and families, and how we might share good practice across our settings.





# Meeting the People Who Make Lives Better



## **Do you have a favourite place you love to visit again and again?**

I am the biggest fan of Christmas, however, I do love summer and all the happiness it brings! My favourite place in the world is Portugal – whether it's Albufeira or Lisbon – both are stunning, filled with beautiful views and the loveliest people.

## **In one sentence, how would you sum up what “Making Lives Better” means to you?**

It's easy to get caught up in the day to day pace of working in education and all the chaos that comes with it. But when you pause and reflect, you realise the impact we have on every young person we meet. By modelling the right values, showing what it means to be a good person, and demonstrating kindness and empathy, we can make an enormous difference. We are in a position to influence future generations in a meaningful and positive way. To me, that is what “Making Lives Better” truly means, and it's exactly why I chose to work in education.

## **What's something surprising about your job that most people wouldn't know?**

Most people think safeguarding is about procedures and rules, but an unexpected truth is that trust is the most powerful tool you can have in this role. Concerns are only disclosed, and stories are only shared, when they feel safe, seen and heard. As well as this, I think people would be surprised at how emotionally intense this role is. Sometimes, it can take all you have as a person, but to know you have given someone the support they needed at the right time, makes it all worthwhile.

## **Which book, TV show or film do you recommend to everyone?**

The first thing that came to mind when I read this question was a book I read named “The Let Them Theory”. A friend recommended it to me, and I've genuinely never read anything like it. The book highlights the power we hold within ourselves and helps you take control of your thoughts and emotions while setting healthy boundaries that encourage positive change. It truly restored my energy and was such an uplifting read. I felt like I could take on the world after finishing it.

## **What's one thing on your bucket list you still hope to tick off?**

Very cliché but visiting New York at Christmas has always been a dream of mine. I had planned to go for my 21st birthday, but unfortunately, the trip was cancelled due to COVID! And then I began to work in education, and time has flown and here we are again! Approaching Christmas with no trip to NYC booked! Perhaps next year...





We hope you have enjoyed learning about a member of our Trust family who works so hard to Make Lives Matter. If you would like the opportunity to work with people like this, please visit our Trust website to learn more.



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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact  
David May (Head of Innovation)



0161 705 4374



[admin@stocc.org.uk](mailto:admin@stocc.org.uk)



<https://www.stoccat.org.uk>

