

**MAKING
LIVES
BETTER**

TEAM TALK

*MEETING THE PEOPLE
WHO MAKE LIVES BETTER*

Rebecca Gerrard

- Loves Musical Theatre
- Has spent 33 year at St Mary's
- Visiting New Forest feels like going home

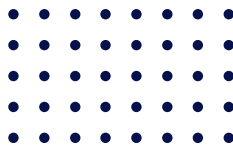


Learning, Loving & Serving like Mary

**ST TERESA
of CALCUTTA**
Catholic Academy Trust



Meeting the People Who Make Lives Better



What's your perfect weekend?

A perfect weekend for me would be walking my dogs on a sunny day, enjoying lunch and a hot chocolate somewhere, and spending quality time with my family.

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

I am always proud of the incredible work our staff and pupils do, but a recent highlight was during our Peer Review. I carried out a learning walk with Dave Proctor and Mandy Messham, focusing on Religion lessons. I felt immensely proud of our pupils' behaviour, their religious literacy, and the quality of work in their books, as well as the staff subject knowledge and delivery of our new Religion scheme.

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

I struggle to sit still, which means I'm often on the move and not always easy to find! I'm learning to remember to let the office staff know where I am—whether that's in a classroom, setting up a display, outdoors, over in church or up a ladder on the roof!

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

Having spent 33 years at St Mary's, it's clear how much I love being here so don't really want to swap, however, if I had to swap roles, it would be with Pauline Baker. I'd love the chance to understand more about her work and gain insight into how other schools support their pupils and staff from a safeguarding perspective.

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

I absolutely love the New Forest. I visited every summer as a child and have continued to return throughout my adult life. It's a peaceful, comforting place that always feels like going home.

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

I love musical theatre, and one day I'd love to spend a couple of weeks in London doing a full tour of all the West End shows!

In one sentence, how would you sum up what "Making Lives Better" means to you?

Working together to ensure every pupil can achieve their very best in every aspect of their lives.

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

My favourite book is *Jane Eyre*, though I'm also a big fan of Maeve Binchy and James Patterson. I watch a lot of TV—particularly crime series—and my absolute favourite programmes are *Casualty*, *Silent Witness*, and *Call the Midwife*.

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

After 33 years here—as a member of staff, a former pupil, and a parent—I can honestly say the reason I've stayed so long is the wonderful staff I work with every day. St Mary's is a true family: we support one another, our local community, and those beyond it. It's a special place filled with kindness and commitment.

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

Definitely finance! It's an area I've never naturally gravitated towards, but I know developing a deeper understanding would really benefit my role.



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.



Learn More



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact
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