



**Name:** Mr Mark Fryer

**Position:** Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning)

**Role:** I am in charge of teaching and learning at the school as well as CPD and the Frog VLE platform. It is an exciting position because I feel that I can be a positive force in the school both for both the students and the staff. For me, schools are the very best places on earth. I am driven by the belief that **all** young people deserve a fantastic education and that teaching is a very special vocation.

**Time at School:** I started in January 2018, moving over from Gosforth Academy to be Curriculum Leader for English, a subject that I love. My favourite place in teaching remains the classroom, or even a sports field, with students. That is what the buzz will always be for me.

**Subjects you teach:** My main specialism is English but I am also a qualified Rugby Union coach and have also coached many other sports- from handball to boxing!

**What you like:** My lifelong passions are sport, music and film but a far more interesting 'love' that I have is for sharks. For as long as I can remember, I have been completely fascinated by them. Without wanting to sound like a 12 year old, my favourite shark is the Short-fin Mako, which is one of the fastest fish in the sea. In people and in life, I really value kindness and optimism but also think schools have a responsibility to produce students who are sceptical, critical and sensible thinkers- and ready to make a constructive impact on the world- scepticism is increasingly vital.

**What you dislike:** I don't particularly enjoy anything or anyone that seeks to divide, silence or simplify the world and the people in it.

**Any other interesting fact:** I went to the Galapagos Islands 2 years ago and swam with Black-tip and White-tip reef sharks, a very rare Galapagos shark and then, accidentally, a 4 metre Tiger shark. It was an experience I will never forget. What I learnt was that the sharks were more terrified than we were.