



Will Chuter is deputy head pastoral at Gresham's School. He tells us he's a secret rhythm guitar player, used to want to be like David Attenborough and loves the fact, in teaching, no two days are the same.

#### What inspired you to get into teaching?

The love of my subject – classics, and the chance to encourage others to feel the same way about it, as well as the opportunity to be involved in all the things that I'd loved at school, like sport, drama and music.

#### What do you love most about teaching?

I love the variation in each day. Not just the variety of things that I typically do in my job – from coaching cricket, to teaching Latin, to chairing a meeting – but also the conversations and interactions I have with pupils or colleagues; always lively and often entertaining. No two days are the same.

#### What were you like at school?

I was very good before I was 13. Then, when I moved to secondary school, I tried to be bad so that I would be popular; but this just brought me mediocre GCSEs, and no-one liked me anymore for being chucked out of French every fortnight. From 16-18, I was very good again, worked hard and got good A-levels.

#### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

John Badcock was my A-level ancient history teacher. He knew his subject inside out, had a very light touch and a sparkly sense of humour, and was easily diverted by questions about his former pupil, Buster Mottram. We are still in touch.

#### What are the biggest challenges facing schools today?

The biggest challenge remains preparing the next generation adequately enough to be self-assured, outward-looking and generous members of society, as well as being able to deal confidently with the challenges their own lives will throw up. In today's schools that incorporates all the traditional academic and pastoral elements you might expect, as well as having to deal with very serious modern challenges like adolescent mental health, e-safety and extremism.

#### What's the most important thing to teach a child?

It's very hard to settle on one thing,

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and it will depend on the age of the child, but how to behave towards others is a good place to start.

#### What did you want to be when you were younger and why?

I wanted to be a naturalist when I was very young, because I thought Sir David Attenborough was the most brilliant human being on earth. But then I was useless at science, so that went out of the window!

#### If you could go back in time what advice would you give to your school-age self?

Be yourself at all times and realise the true value of that self. That can be very hard when you are a teenager.

#### What's the best bit of advice you were ever given?

When you open the batting, you don't have to score any runs for the first few overs. That was a revelation to my 13-year-old self, for which I can thank my dad.

#### What's the worst job you ever did and why?

Chipping rust from the bottom of a container-ship hold for two weeks crossing the Pacific Ocean, using a pneumatic chisel: hot, sweaty, dusty, dark and noisy.

#### What's the funniest moment you've had in the classroom?

When one of my sixth form pupils asked me, after some moments deep in thought, whether it was possible to swim under England. But there are hilarious moments every day in the classroom, so it is hard to remember them all.

#### What would be your advice for wannabe teachers?

Do your teacher training (so that you can

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make mistakes and learn from them before you start your career), and throw yourself in fully (so that you can get the most out of school life).

#### What's been the proudest moment of your career so far?

Being appointed to the deputy headship of Gresham's.

#### What is it about Gresham's that most appeals to you?

It is an excellent school and was rated as such in this year's ISI inspection; it has been led superbly in the last two years; its reputation is soaring; there is some very exciting building happening over the next five years; and it is an extremely friendly, warm place to work – besides being in a beautiful part of Britain!

#### Can you tell us something your pupils would be surprised to know about you?

I used to be the rhythm guitar player in a band in London, but I gave it up to be a teacher.

