Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

Aurora
Eccles School
and
White House School



Principal
Arabella Hardy

Arabella Hardy is an accomplished educational leader with over 28 years of experience across schools, special educational needs (SEN) provisions, and further and higher education. As Principal, Arabella Hardy has demonstrated a consistent ability to drive improvement, foster positive cultures, and deliver outstanding outcomes for students and staff alike.

Arabella Hardy has led schools through major improvement initiatives, including successful Ofsted and Independent School Inspectorate inspections, and has implemented effective safeguarding and compliance measures. She has shown strategic and financial leadership by securing Local Authority funding and improving efficiency while maintaining quality. Her experience includes managing complex projects, capital developments, mergers, as well as SEN, project management, and curriculum planning, all supported by a flexible, relationship-driven approach.



Headteacher, Aurora Eccles School
Chris MacKinnon

Chris MacKinnon has been a Headteacher at Aurora Eccles and White House Schools since September 2019 and is proud to be the current Headteacher for Aurora Eccles School.

Previous positions have included headship of a junior school and leadership roles in secondary schools including head of mathematics, head of lower school, and assistant head. His senior leadership experience encompasses both pastoral, safeguarding, and curriculum roles in secondary and all-through schools.

Chris is an ISI team inspector and a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching. He has taught mathematics since 1998, from Year 3 to Y13, and still enjoys teaching every day at Eccles.



Headteacher, Aurora White House School
David Clarke

I have the privilege of being the very first Headteacher of the White House School.

I have previously held the post of Headteacher in two very different mainstream primary schools.

Before joining the Aurora Group, I taught in two delightful special schools, a long-held ambition of mine stemming from being a parent of a child with significant special needs.

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Designated Safeguarding Lead
Jo Pinyoun

Jo joined the Aurora Eccles team in May 2020 following her retirement from Suffolk Constabulary.

Jo was a Detective Constable with over 26 years experience in the counties of both Suffolk & Sussex. Jo's policing background was predominantly in Safeguarding children within a multi-agency framework, Criminal Investigations, Cyber Crime investigations and Public Protection.

As a qualified DSL, Jo now utilises her many years of Safeguarding experience managing the Engagement Team within our school, training our staff, providing advice to parents and keeping our students safe.



Clinical Lead
Marina Kruger

Marina joined the Aurora Eccles team in September 2018. She has 25 years of experience working as a Speech and Language Therapist and / or Audiologist across a diverse range of settings, with a wide range of age groups and in a number of different countries.

She has experience of establishing and developing speech therapy and audiology services in different settings as well as coordinating a therapies team in a residential school for children and young adults with autism and other associated difficulties.

Marina has undertaken a wide variety of post-qualification training courses and has a special interest in autism spectrum conditions, attachment difficulties and auditory processing difficulties. Marina is also one of the Clinical Coordinators for the Aurora Group.



School Business Manager
Martin Russell

Following 18 years in Retail, Martin moved across to Education in 2015 as School Business Manager for Great Yarmouth High School.

Martin then moved to Cambridgeshire Educational Trust as Director of Finance & Resources for 3.5 years before joining The Aurora Group in November 2019, initially as Interim School Lead Business Manager, before joining the school Team formally in May 2020.

Martin is now NEBOSH qualified and holds a Technical Membership with the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

Leadership Team (LT)

Aurora Eccles School



Headteacher
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Deputy Headteacher
Paula MyHill

I am currently Deputy Headteacher at Aurora Eccles, having joined in May 2022.

My career began in 2004 as a Secondary English teacher in Hunstanton, before moving to Cliff Park Ormiston academy as a Head of Year.

Previous roles throughout my career include Head of English, DSL, Designated Teacher for LAC, SENDCo and Assistant Principal.

I continue to teach English, and have previously taught English across Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, along with other subjects, supporting the needs of the school.



Assistant Headteacher
Rick Allen

Rick Allen has nearly 14 years in the teaching profession. Since joining the Aurora Group in September 2017, he has brought a wealth of expertise in science education, having taught a range of qualifications up to GCSE across various mainstream schools.

Rick holds an honours degree in Cell Biology and has also served as a pastoral lead, supporting the wellbeing and development of over 200 students.

Currently, Rick oversees the alternative curriculum, ensuring students are supported with their personal development as they progress through school. Outside of education, Rick enjoys staying active through football and running.



Assistant Headteacher
Helen Waring

With over 25 years of experience in education, I am a fully qualified teacher and SENDCo, holding a Master's degree in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities from the University of Birmingham. My career has included twenty years in primary settings before I served for two years as a headteacher in a fifty-two week a year residential trauma/SEND setting before coming to Aurora Eccles School as an Assistant Headteacher.

I currently teach my favourite subject, History to Year 10 and 11. I am a Level 5 Trauma-Informed Mental Health Practitioner, deeply committed to supporting the holistic development of every student.

Outside of school, I enjoy running, going to the gym, and travelling whenever possible.