

Senior Leadership Team



Arabella Hardy - Principal

I have 28 years of teaching experience where I have been fortunate enough to have taught a range of subjects in various settings, including schools, SEN provisions and Further and Higher Education. In my previous employment I was Head teacher at a residential school for children and young adults with autism and other associated difficulties, before I was a Curriculum Manager at a Land-based College. My responsibilities included Equine and Animal care studies, Engineering, Multi Skills and Foundation Learning.



Chris MacKinnon – Headteacher Aurora Eccles School

Chris has worked at Aurora Eccles school since September 2016 and has held positions ranging from Head of Mathematics, DSL, Head of Education & Interim Headteacher (through school), Headteacher – Primary and, having supported the opening of Aurora White House School, is currently enjoying his time as Headteacher of Eccles School. He was the principal of a junior academy before he came to Eccles and has experience of all areas of school improvement from his leadership work in maintained all-through and secondary schools. Chris is a secondary maths teacher by training and still has the pleasure of teaching one of our Y8 classes.



David Clarke – Headteacher Aurora White House School

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.



Jo Pinyoun – Designated Safeguarding Lead

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 DSL Team within our school training our staff, providing advice to parents and keeping our students safe.

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Jamie Benson – SEND Lead

Jamie joined the Aurora Group in March 2021. Prior to this he worked within an alternative provision MAT with the responsibility for leading KS2-KS4 provisions. Prior to relocating to Suffolk he was SENDCO within Dixons Academies Trust in Yorkshire where he led the development of bespoke provisions for students unable to access a mainstream curriculum. Jamie is a qualified SENDCO, DSL and specialist assessor.



Richard Allen – Assistant Headteacher

I have been in the teaching profession for nearly 10 years and joined the Aurora group in September 2017. I taught science at the Nicholas Hamond academy before this and was also a pastoral lead for over 200 students. I am a qualified teacher with a honours degree in cell biology, and am currently studying for the NPQSL.



Marina Kruger – Clinical Lead

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.



Martin Russell – School Business Manager

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.