



Julia Picken

# Julia encourages people to change careers and take up teaching this New Year

‘Choosing to switch careers wasn’t an overnight decision’

By LEE GARRETT

**AN OAKTHORPE teacher is encouraging others to look at the profession as part of a national campaign.**

Julia Picken, a teacher at Oakthorpe Primary School, is

making the call to other people in the region to think again about their careers this New Year and possibly take up teaching.

Her call comes as part of the national Get Into Teaching campaign, which aims to get as many people as possible into the career.

A survey conducted on behalf of the campaign found that 66 per cent of people surveyed in the county would pick a different career path if they could choose again - with over half (51 per cent) of people believing they would make a good teacher.

Of these, a third said this is because they are good at explaining things, 41 per cent because they like working with young people, 49 per cent think they can make learning fun and another 47 per cent because they believe they can relate to others. For Ms Picken, her change into teaching came after roles as a freelance textile designer and legal PA.

It was in 2017 that she made the big step to leave her office administrative role but she hasn't regretted it.

“Choosing to switch careers wasn't an overnight decision and required some consideration and planning, but it was completely worth it - I've never looked back.” she revealed. “There are few careers that can be so meaningful and rewarding as teaching where you can be so integral to shaping the lives of others. When I take



Roger Pope

the time to reflect on my job it makes me incredibly proud of the work I do each day.”

In the survey, the appetite for change, and interest in teaching among those at a career crossroads, is also highlighted by registrations of interest in teaching from potential career changers.

In January 2018 they were almost double that of students and graduates, 10,952 versus 6,079 respectively, as people searched for a more fulfilling career.

Roger Pope, spokesperson for the Get Into Teaching campaign and a National Leader for Education, said:

“Our research highlights just how many people in this country are at a career crossroads and have an itch to switch, but clearly they feel there are barriers to overcome.

“A large proportion of people believe they would make

a good teacher and see the draw and rewards of a career that can have an impact on so many. It's interesting to see that people are looking to achieve a wider sense of fulfilment and worth - which is exactly what a career in teaching can give you.”

Previous research from the Get Into Teaching campaign has shown 64 per cent of people in England said they were grateful to a teacher or teachers for the impact they had in shaping the person they are today.

It's this high regard which Oakthorpe's Ms Picken believes is key to getting people into the profession.

She was also keen for people to look into the possibility of teaching and encourages people to take on the challenge.

“For anyone considering a career move into teaching, I'd strongly recommend you find out more by arranging some school experience in your area of interest and take the next step into training and qualification.” she said.

“Your experience from a different field will be an invaluable resource in the classroom and provide you with the unique opportunity to bring to life learning that will impact students well beyond their school years.”

For more information about teaching as a career and to register interest, visit: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk>.

Alternatively, call the Get Into Teaching hotline on: 0800 389 2500.

## ORDER YOUR SOUVENIR PHOTO

# Times

ASHBY ● COALVILLE ● SWADLINCOTE



The Times Newspaper photographer visited today.

If you would like to order a copy of the photograph as it appears in the newspaper...

**Telephone 01530 813101**

Card payments can be taken over the telephone.

Or post your order complete with cheque payment using the form

OFFER 6" x 4" <b>£4.99</b>	7" x 5" <b>£6.75</b>	8" x 6" <b>£7.50</b>	10" x 8" <b>£8.25</b>
----------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------

Larger sizes available - Ask for further details

Please note: The size quoted is the size of paper used and it may sometimes be necessary to include white borders to avoid cropping original images

Postage and packing - £2.00 extra. (For larger orders ask for a price)

Please allow 28 days for delivery

### PHOTOGRAPH ORDER FORM

Description .....

Edition Date ..... Page No. .... Quantity. .... Size .....

Name .....

Address .....

Post Code ..... Telephone No. ....

Payment (including p+p) required with order to: Coalville Times Ltd,  
Bridge Road, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3QP  
Cheques should be made payable to Coalville Times Ltd



Oakthorpe Primary School