

1. For most of you sat here, you probably know that I'm a teacher here at MHA, and I teach PE. But how and why am I here today? Some of you may be wondering how you too, can be stood here. So today I'm going to tell you. If anyone has any questions, feel free to ask me at the end.
2. Firstly raise your hand if you have ever thought about being a teacher?

What are your reasons for wanting to be a teacher?

3. I'M GOING TO START off by showing you a short video about just one of many examples why people may want to be a teacher, and one of many things that enticed me into teaching. Video till 2 minutes 10.

For me this video sums up a day in the life of a teacher, constant striving to help each and every student that we teach!

Can anybody tell me what this video shows, and how this may make people want to teach?

REWARDING

Whether you are a PE teacher or an English teacher, being able to help students overcome even the smallest of challenges, to some of the biggest challenges, is why many teachers do it!

4. But how did I get to where I am today. Back in 2009 I was sat in a very similar position to some of you, I was about to start my GCSEs and all I knew was that I had a love for sport. I was often told about different jobs I could do, but as with any young sports person, I was set on being a full time athlete, and I'm not saying that some of you can't do that, be it becoming a footballer, an actor or a full time singer but it's always important to have a back up plan, have qualification in case that doesn't happen.

And I'm glad I did, after finishing my GCSEs I then went on to study a BTEC at the local college. It wasn't an easy decision, and I spent weeks deciding between BTEC and Alevels, but still in the process of perusing my athletics career it seemed that the most suitable option. I ensured that the course I was studying was suitable to get me on an undergraduate sports course, and from there I set out gaining experience in many areas of sport. I started to volunteer at the local sports clubs, and lead events for local schools. And it was through this experience that I not only enhanced my CV but also realised, that I wanted to teach, I wanted to help these young people be the best they can be.

Whilst completing my btec I spend lots of time researching the best university for sport in the country, I wanted to gain a degree, WHILST STILL TRYING to pursue my sporting career,

and so I applied for several sports related courses at both UOB and Loughborough, both ranked 1 and 2 for sports science in the UK., and I finally chose to study at the University of Birmingham. Which for me was one of the best decisions I've made, being the host of many nationals sporting events, again where lots of my experience was gained.

5. During my degree I had times where I questioned whether I was smart enough as many people would say to be at university, to complete my dissertation and do well in my degree, growing up many people always told me I wasn't good enough, and people from my background wouldn't make it, we weren't smart enough to go to university, and it was this that often stuck in the back of my mind and drove me to continue to work harder and harder, through any tough times.

I spent most of my university year's volunteers at local schools, teaching swimming to disadvantaged youths and trying to further enhance my CV and experience. As many a lecturer always told me, if you want to teacher PE you must, must, must have the experience!

These things kept me focused throughout university, and meant that I wasn't wasting my time at university, I was working hard and gaining valuable experience. Which is ESSENTIAL to gain a place on a teacher training course which can often be scares!!

For most students, who want to become teachers, the next step from here would be to apply for places on PGCE COURSES, or a teach first scheme which most universities around the country offer, from Manchester University to places in North and South Wales, but for me I took a slightly different Path.

6. I still wasn't set on where I wanted to go with my life, and still didn't think I was READY and I realised that that was ok, I realised that it doesn't matter what time of life you decide to start your career, what you do in the middle can often shape you into who you are.

So when I was given the opportunity to gain a scholarship to run at a division 1 university in America I couldn't turn down the opportunity, and I guess I then became A BULLDOG, living and breathing the American athletics culture, which is very different to anything we have here. Whilst out in the states, I was provided with everything and I mean pretty much anything you needed to be as successful as you could be. Endless amounts of kit, Physio, food, and we even flew to our races! It was a fantastic opportunity, and I learnt an awful lot about myself and my running, and it's fair to say I even improved with my running a little bit.

My parents often asked me if this was the right thing to do, but having the opportunity to study a master's degree whist out there, I knew that any experience gained, and a master's degree in English literature would help me get on a teacher training course in the future, IF

THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED TO DO, which for any aspiring PE teachers can often be a VERY difficult task! Some of you may be wondering, why the switch from SPORTS SCIENCE to ENGLISH... but for me it made a lot of sense at the time. If gaining a place on a teacher training course was a difficult task, having experience in more than one subject was hopefully going to help me!! But it's safe to say it wasn't the easiest 2 years of my education, and I'm forever grateful for my American spell checker hating the letter S as much as I did by the time I graduated. The difference in grammar and spelling was a huge barrier throughout my time in the states but I guess again it taught me to work harder.

Seeing the way sport happens over there made me even more inspired to help young people in the UK, working part time in an American High School and seeing the way sport alone happens there, made me inspired to provide something similar to pupils in the UK something which I didn't get growing up.

And once I finished my master, I decided that I was going to come home and pursue my career in teaching. I managed to gain a place on a teacher training course at Bangor University, which for any aspiring PE teacher, is a very difficult task, and without all the experiences I had volunteering at local sports club, and organising events I wouldn't have gained this place, and I wouldn't be here today.

7. So then I set out teacher teaching in North Wales, many people will tell you, your teacher training year is the HARDEST year of your life, for me I made sure that that was not the case, I ensured I planned everything in advance, and did lots of research before starting the course. I didn't want to spend night after night dwelling on something I may have done slightly wrong, I learnt with every day!

But don't get me wrong, my training year was tough, especially having to learn a new language, and teach some of my lessons in WELSH which wasn't the easiest thing I've ever done, I did often feel like the work load was too much, and often questioned if I did in fact want to teach, but then the more I started to teach, and the work load increased, I began to remember why I wanted to teach, and I began to feel like I was helping these young people achieve something that they before may not want to do. Throughout many years in sport, and coaching, this year was the most valuable, and It shaped who I am today thanks to being able to share the knowledge of some experienced teachers throughout my training year.

8. But is teaching easy, as some or many people often say on a weekly basis, "don't you only work 9-3?" but no! Teaching isn't easy. We don't spend 6 week of the summer on the beach, drinking cocktails and having a good time. I guess maybe for a few weeks. But many teachers will spend a large part of their holidays/half terms planning lessons, marking exams, and ensuring they have everything set up to create an educational environment that helps pupils thrive!

9. However, we do get to see people go from knowing very little, to knowing a lot. From failing a mock to passing a GCSE. From overcoming the smallest of struggles, to the biggest! And seeing many of them leave school with high aspirations for the future, and a great job prospects, which for many teachers makes the hard work and endless hours of term feel worth it!

10. I'm going to finish this presentation off with three key words, which I believe are essential for any aspiring teacher, and something you can begin to build right now!!

EXPERIENCE, EXPERIENCE, EXPERIENCE