



Ian Golding: a profile

I was born in Birkenhead a short distance from Liverpool. My father was a shipbuilder, like his before him, my mother is a Nurse. I had an unremarkable school education but found my niche in the world of art and design. I completed my A levels and attended a foundation course in art and design.



At this point I had set my sights on becoming a sculptor. Eventually, after realising that the life of a sculptor was not for me, I gained a place at Manchester Polytechnic to study a BA in three dimensional design. After dabbling in ceramics and jewellery design I developed an affinity to product design, focussing primarily on furniture and lighting. I graduated in 1989 with an honours degree and made my way to London in search of my first job.

It wasn't long before I secured a position as a designer with a Finnish company called Martela. A couple of years later I decided to train as a teacher. The lure of summer holidays with my wife (also a teacher) was too much. I took a PGCE in Design and Technology with ICT at Roehampton Institute and soon found myself on teaching practice in a boys' grammar school. I was fortunate to be offered a post at the Tiffin School, Kingston upon Thames, within a couple of weeks of my arrival as a trainee teacher. I took up the post teaching design and technology, ICT, art and games – a fabulous combination! I spent two happy years at Tiffin, blowing up capacitors (by mistake) and playing football with the 6th form every Wednesday. Unfortunately it wasn't long before I realised that the opportunities for career development there were minimal. I took a post as Head of Design Technology at Chessington Community School and then moved two years later to take on a much bigger department at a Coombe Girls' School in New Malden. During this time I also completed a Masters Degree in Educational Studies.

After four happy years at Coombe, I was ready for a new challenge. I moved to Ashburton Community School in Croydon, a tough urban school that had just come out of special measures. During the five years I spent at Ashburton, initially as Assistant Head teacher and then as Deputy Head teacher, I had to learn a brand new set of skills. These years proved to be incredible demanding but hugely rewarding, I worked with extremely supportive and tenacious staff who made a difference with our students on a daily basis. Most recently I have been working as a Deputy Head Teacher at Elliott School in Putney, a school that has struggled in recent years but is making great strides towards the school it should be under a dedicated and strong Head teacher.

I'm not sure that this information necessarily tells you who I am, so I will try and fill in some of the gaps. I am married to Lucy and have two children, Jemima and Molly. We have been members of Raynes Park Community Church (Salvation Army) for many years, though uniforms and brass instruments seem in short supply. I regularly played football and rugby, only retiring when my knees would no longer do what my brain wanted. I have learnt to play tennis and have begun to show signs of improvement. I love the visual arts, music of all sorts, the opera, windsurfing, great food and wine, icy mornings and Autumn days. I am a huge Liverpool fan, and one of my greatest moments was watching them win the Champions League final in Istanbul in 2005.

I am thrilled to be joining the Oasis team and believe their vision for children, schools and community is perfectly aligned with my own beliefs. I am very much looking forward to working with everyone connected with Lord's Hill and hope that my contribution alongside yours, will help to make the difference!

Ian Golding, Principal, Oasis Academy Lord's Hill.