



R.E.A.L

Re-thinking Engagement
& Approaches to Learning

National Teaching Assistant Awards 2020



Nomination for: Gemma Underwood

"Gemma is a very well respected member of the team. She is very diligent and is always fully prepared for all her sessions. She understands and has empathy for the needs of the learners and adapts her teaching to suit their learning style. Relationships are exemplary, Gemma is very caring and provides a safe and secure environment for her learners so they trust and respect her. She supports parents/carers and they appreciate her 'non judgemental' approach. Gemma works 1:1 with learners and supports learners in a small group. She works hard to support the academic, social and emotional well-being of her learners that are often lost to education. She encourages learners to have a 'go' at their activities and supports them to overcome their risk of failure. She is particularly supportive of learners who are struggling with their literacy and is very open and honest when she shares her own difficulties with them to develop empathy with them. Gemma is always willing to attend after school meetings and support learners in the holidays through our befriending programme. She has attended our annual residential and never hesitates to stay after work to organise resources and displays."

"During Covid, Gemma was instrumental in delivering free school meals, work packs to vulnerable learners during term time and the holidays. She also worked face to face with her learners as they were deemed vulnerable so needed sessions. Gemma always offered to do extra deliveries and covered sessions during the holidays for vulnerable and critical worker learners. Gemma was incredibly supportive of learners, parents/carers and other staff during these unprecedented times and would ensure that anxieties were minimised. Gemma is a real team player and always has a smile on her face at work. She is very nurturing towards her learners and colleagues."



Nomination Made by: Alison Wellings