



MATHEW PULLEN

**SENIOR LECTURER,
UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH WALES**

YEAR OF LEAVING: 1995



What was your favourite subject at school and why?

I loved science, my teacher always made it relevant and fun. Sessions were very practical and allowed us to develop an enquiry based approach to learning about the world.

What have you been up to since leaving school?

After school I pursued a career in education and attended Liverpool Hope University to gain a breadth of knowledge in a Sport and History degree before returning to Cardiff to complete my PGCE to qualify as a PE teacher. Whilst developing as an educator I also took an interest in the role of technology to transform learning which led me to where I now, training future teachers on the role of technology and also supporting schools around the world as an Apple Distinguished Educator.

What experience and qualifications do you need to do your job, and do you have advice for current students looking to go into your sector?

To become a teacher I needed to complete either a degree specifically in teaching (3-4 years) or in my case, a more general degree (3 years) followed by a Post Graduate degree specifically in teaching of 1 year. Experience in the classroom is a must, to really understand the role beyond what you see in your own teachers in school, also try to find something beyond your chosen area to make you unique.

What is one piece of advice you would give to current students?

Don't feel that you need to make your final career choice now. I knew I wanted to work in education to help people but in widening my skill set I have had more opportunities to try new things. From a PE teacher, to travelling the world to support others in the classroom, develop the skills that help you adapt to new opportunities.

What challenges have you faced in your life so far, and how have you overcome them? What is your next big goal?

Every day can be both a challenge and an opportunity. I took the step of leaving secondary teaching to try something new, something I was passionate about, that was a real challenge but turned out to be the opening of many new opportunities. Believe in the fact that you can make a difference in the world and you will.

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