

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

JANUARY 2024

Kieran McKenny



St. Thomas More High School played a huge part in my life growing up, having first attended in 2008 and staying there until 2016 once completing my A Levels. At A Level, I studied Media Studies, Geography & Geology; and it was Media Studies that interested me the most and it ended up being the industry I wanted to pursue a career in. As a result, I went to the University of Lincoln to study Film & Television, with the hope of eventually moving into the world of Film, without really knowing the ins and outs of the industry. After completing my third and final year, having started a freelance Videography business and working on many different Documentary films, I decided to move into the challenging but extremely

rewarding world of Education – specifically Further Education.

I still wanted to work and teach within the Media Industry though, so I decided to do my teaching degree (PGCE) at Bishop Grosseteste University with a specialism in Media & Film. After successfully completing my Post-Graduate degree in the midst of the pandemic in 2020, I started applying for teaching roles and I was lucky to be offered one at USP College (formerly Seevic College) in Benfleet. I joined USP College in 2020 and I have been leading the A Level Media Studies course there ever since. In 2023, I decided to apply for the role of Curriculum Manager of Creative Industries at USP College – and my application was successful! This academic year has been spent leading the Creative Industries sector and supporting our staff with over 20 creative courses that we have here at the College.

When I was a student at St. Thomas More High School I never thought I would end up being on ‘the other side’ and go into education, but sometimes you can never predict these things. I am so glad I have taken the career route I have as it is extremely rewarding having an impact on the lives of so many young adults. ***“It is important to keep your options open, and see where life takes you!”***

PROFILE:

NAME: Kieran McKenny

JOB: Curriculum Manager of Creative Studies

YEAR left STM: 2016

Subjects studied at A LEVEL: Geography, Geology and Media Studies

University of Lincoln: Film and Television