

Local teacher tackles ‘cookie-cutter’ school system with her new business

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Frustrated and disillusioned by the daily bureaucracy, after 14 years teaching, 47 year old Joanne Stuttle did what many of us can only dream of. She ditched the relative comfort and security of her job to launch her own private tutoring business. With the sole aim of helping the children in her local community to flourish. And she’s off to an amazing start!

A single mum to two teenage boys, Joanne knows only too well the challenges and pressures that children and teachers alike often face in today’s education system. Increasing demands for ‘standardised success’ left Joanne searching for a new way to help children achieve their potential.

“Over the last few years, teaching has changed dramatically. It’s become so institutionalised that you spend more time ticking boxes and battling red tape than you do actually working with and supporting children,” explained Joanne.

“For me, getting to know each child, understanding their strengths and personalities is key to helping them achieve their full potential. By engaging with children one-to-one, we can empower them to get the very best out of school and improve not just their grades but their overall happiness and confidence too. Schools really do need to wake up and realise that we can’t use a ‘cookie-cutter’ approach to educate our children!”

Joanne has been running her Tutor Doctor business in Nottingham since July 2016. She thoroughly assesses a child’s needs and then carefully selects the best-fit tutor based on goals, personality and learning level. Tutors visit students at home, at a time that is convenient for them. Despite launching less than six months ago, Joanne and her team of expert tutors are already working with more than 70 families in Nottingham and the surrounding area.

Surprising herself a little, Joanne is proving to be every inch the businesswoman and has grand plans for growth! “I’m over the moon with how well things are going but I have big ambitions! I want to be the go-to service in Nottingham and I see no reason why Tutor Doctor can’t, and won’t, become a household name. I’m excited about providing employment in the area with more tutors and in-house staff – something I hadn’t initially considered I would be bringing to my community. But now that I realise I am, it’s a wonderful feeling!”

A keen advocate of equal opportunities for all, Joanna also plans to help bridge the attainment gap between the ‘have and the have nots’ in the community. With Tutor Doctor, she plans to pioneer a scholarship programme, through which local businesses can sponsor children’s tuition: “I want to do something that really makes a difference instead of just ‘following the system’. A great example being that a current student received an E grade at the end of last year and with our help, has just been awarded an A. As a result, lots of new opportunities are presenting themselves for this young man that just weren’t there before.”

It's no surprise that family is very important to Joanne. Work-life balance is something that Joanne is keen to preserve and when she's not busy building her new empire she's happiest spending time with her children, family and friends, and Felix, the cat!

And the best thing about her new business? You'd have to ask Joanne: "Speaking as a parent, there's nothing more stressful than knowing your children are struggling and knowing there's nothing you can do about it. When a child struggles they get stressed and you feel helpless. Being able to make a difference in a child's life and the life of the whole family – it's just so rewarding."

About Tutor Doctor

www.tutordoctor.co.uk

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Images:

1. <https://journalink-static.s3.amazonaws.com/releases/0d678b6010456ac207fc8bf89605bcc1.JPG>

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