

## **Debbie Gaggin – Research Librarian and Teacher**

Hi I'm Deb Gaggin, I'm a Research Librarian and Classroom Teacher in Ancient History at Stuartholme School.

My role here at Stuartholme is quite unique. It has a dual role, as a Teacher in Ancient History but also as a Research Librarian. I work individually with students from all ages within the School. With their homework, with their assessment, with research and critical thinking, with their writing skills. I work here until six most nights with the Boarders and with Day students because they can stay here until that time if they want to. Then as well as that, I also do research for teachers as well as students, assisting them and then placing those resources in an information management system that the students and teachers and parents can access.

Within this role dealing with students individually at my desk, I find the best thing is to actually challenge them with questions so that they do the thinking, so they do gain that critical thinking which is so important in their classroom work as well as in preparation for the next stage in their life.

I love teaching at Stuartholme School because the School is more advanced, I feel in the curriculum as well as in technology, so that we're allowed as teachers to teach the way we teach best, so that the students learn the skills and particularly with mine with critical thinking, so that I can take them with them to their next stage in their learning.

What I really love about Stuartholme and why I've stayed here these thirteen years is that there's a sense of community here that made me feel welcome from the start. The school itself not only encouraged my professionalism, but the students and the community within the students has helped me. My relationship with the Boarders, it's a Boarding school, is wonderful. The students come down here of an evening and I might have a packet of chips on my desk and they'll say "ooh what's that?" and I'll say "You can have them" and they'll say Mrs Gaggin, "you're a legend". I say "that's ok".