

Mr Alex McNish

Academic & SMSC Lead

[BlackAndWhiteSpectrum](#)

Master of Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition, MA (8.5/10) - University of Barcelona
Bachelor of French Studies with Spanish, BA (Hons) First Class - Queen Mary, University of London
Trinity Certificate in TESOL - Windsor Schools, Oxford

I have over ten years' teaching experience, including: IELTS and academic English for university preparation; examining IGCSE English as a Second Language; teaching medical, legal (ILEC) and financial (ICFE) Cambridge English exam courses to professionals and students; tutoring ambassadors and diplomats in negotiation skills and writing for diplomats; teaching economics and psychology A-levels; lecturing and examining in technical English to engineering master's students; teaching business English to management undergraduates; teaching the Cambridge suite of KET, PET, FCE, CAE and CPE exams, etc.

In my role at Newbury Hall I am responsible for curriculum design and improving the quality of education we provide: making great lessons for great teachers.



While living in Slovakia I worked for the British Council where, as well as teaching and training other teachers, I designed and delivered new intensive IELTS workshops, worked as a materials designer on the MyClass project, presented at the national English Teachers' Forum and gave various workshops for the Ekonomicka Univerzita. At university in London I focussed on Jungian literary analyses for my bachelor's thesis, and in Barcelona my master's thesis involved differential statistical analyses of learner materials by semantic tagging.

I believe that learning a language is - or should be - as much about the learning of new ways of thinking, feeling and experiencing one's own and others' cultures as it is about communication. I am currently interested in what implications the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis might have for second-language learning and teaching, including the potential links between gesture, language and thought in different languages. I also intend to explore whether phonosemantics and euphonics may provide a lesser-travelled road into the design of new language courses.

I enjoy the opportunity at Newbury Hall to build meaningful relationships with students I can really get to know as individuals, and the garden still needs work. In the coming years I intend to keep our teachers' paperwork burden to a minimum so that they can enjoy teaching and invest their time in inspiring our students. I want all Newbury Hall students *to enjoy being challenged by tutors they respect*, to develop a habit of challenging themselves rather than satisficing, and to become curious about collecting and comparing new words, ideas and experiences. I believe deeply in the the aims & ethos of the school.

When I am not teaching, I am usually thinking about teaching, and I quite enjoy walking around aimlessly.