

Meet the Senior Leadership Team

Name	Mr Hillidge
Position in the school & overview of main Responsibilities	<p>I am the Director of STEM for the trust, TCAT. I'm also part of the Senior Leadership Team here at BCA.</p> <p>My job is to find exciting opportunities for students across all our schools in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.</p> <p>These include our work with Oxford University and companies such as United Utilities. I also set up our international links with Harvard University and MIT in Boston, USA.</p> <p>Additionally I teach science and manage quality assurance across BCA</p>
What are your qualifications? E.g. BA/MA/PGCE etc	I have an Applied Biology Honours degree and a Postgrad certificate of science education from Manchester Metropolitan University.
What inspired you to go into teaching/your current role ?	After university I qualified to be a social worker and led teams in adult social care in Wigan. However I soon realised how much I missed academic study and my love of science and technology. My current role is exciting because I can go anywhere to bring exciting STEM opportunities back to Warrington students. We have links in every corner of the UK and across the globe – a good STEM education means you are in demand worldwide!
Why did you choose your specific subject/area? (Or if a specific subject does not apply – which subject have you taught in the past and why?) Include your career history.	I've worked at BCA since 2001 and whilst I've always taught science, I've done lots of other jobs within school too; pastoral leader and head of science to name but two. My current role is the best job I've had though because I get to meet a lot of innovative and exciting people who want to work with our young people.
Where did you grow up and go to school/University etc	I grew up on the edge of Manchester and still live in the area although I've lived in a few different parts of the world in the past. I went to university in Liverpool which was such a fantastic city to study in.
What are your hobbies and interests?	

My hobbies are mainly around sport and the outdoors. I played football for many years but now I compete in ultramarathons and long distance triathlons such as the Ironman UK championships in 2017. I'm hoping to complete Barcelona Ironman in 2021. Next up is the Warrington Way, a 40 mile ultramarathon that loops the town!

I enjoy travelling with my family both in the UK and across the world – finding new places reminds you that there is a big exciting world out there and if you work hard and find your talent then you can be a success anywhere you want to.

What impresses you about Beamont Collegiate Academy?

I've seen an incredible change in the school over the last 19 years. I spend lots of time in other schools and it always makes me realise how fantastic our students, teachers and facilities are here at BCA.

I don't know any other school in the UK where you could get professional esports training after lessons or where you could set up your own business in the Fablab to 3D print designs or cast your own jewellery – there really are some incredible opportunities at the school – make sure you grab them!