

Alumni Profile

Sheetal Woods

BA '94 English Language & Literature

Current Career

Organization: Thames Valley District School Board

Title: ESL Teacher

Career Overview

For the past 10 years I have been teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). I have also taught junior classes and Special Education.

After I graduated with my Bachelor of Education, I applied for one-month and then was offered a small contract job, but it was a start. And from there I worked to get a full-time teaching position at Thames Valley District School Board and was successful.

How has King's helped you get where you are today?

I felt prepared to speak eloquently. In my initial interview for a teaching position, they asked me how my degree in English had prepared me. I said it taught me to think critically and I am so passionate about learning and part of that was the King's experience.

What do you wish you knew before starting your career?

I wish I knew how completely all-consuming it would be. I thought it might get easier after a few years. It's a 24-7 job because you take your work home – it's hard to leave behind. There are so many needs and it's hard to leave behind during vacation or down-time. I was always thinking "Oh I could use this in the classroom" etc. The challenge is also keeping up with the technology that is ever-changing.

Curriculum and new initiatives are very politically driven and so what's old is new again at times or there will be things that are just new so there is a lot of change. Also students with specific needs, learning disabilities and larger class sizes are things that are challenging.

After 23 years I still feel like I have the best job in the world. What I find exciting is that I help shape who these people are in terms of their core values, how they relate to others, how they see themselves in a broader perspective, it's exciting to watch them grow and develop as human beings.

Further Degrees /Certifications

Bachelor of Education

Western University



“ King's taught me to think critically and discover my passion for learning. ”