

# Ex-Service Personnel Mentoring in Schools

## Jack Sharp

A mentor in Brownedge St Mary's



I was born in Coventry and brought up in the small Warwickshire village of Bagington, where I lived with my mother and older sisters. After leaving school I have been employed in many differing roles such as an Apprentice Electrician, Warehouseman and forklift truck driver, Sales Assistant for Sainsbury's supermarket and then finally working for BP as a Sales Assistant before joining the Army. After completing basic training I attended the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering in Hampshire where I underwent my Engineering and trade training to become a qualified Armourer (Weapon Systems Engineer). Shortly after arriving at my first unit I began pre-deployment training in preparation for an operational tour of Afghanistan on Herrick 17.

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One highlight of the tour was being asked to work alongside the US Marine Corp mentoring the Afghan Border Police. Despite having language and cultural challenges to contend with I found the mentoring role hugely satisfying and rewarding. Since returning to the UK I have taken an active role in mentoring the young Armourers in anyway needed, with a strong emphasis on developing their technical trade skills and building their confidence. I believe mentoring others is so rewarding and enjoyable to me, these combined with hard work and dedication are what could make me become a valued member of a mentoring team. I am still currently serving in the forces so am greatly looking forward to leaving the Army and embarking on new challenges that will present themselves whilst training and when interacting with pupils in a school environment.