



NILOUFAR WIJETUNGE

Trainer, Communicator and Supporter

“ I got to teach disengaged students about the physics of football. This was hugely rewarding ”

Niloufar Wijetunge, Head of Physics & Teacher Trainer, Ruislip High School and Institute of Physics

What kind of person is Niloufar?

Niloufar considers herself to be a friendly, out-going and fair-minded person. This really helps her connect with her students and with the teachers she works with. Thanks to her Physics background, she's also quite logical, which lets her organise her time quite efficiently—Niloufar doesn't just work in education, she is also a qualified personal trainer!

What is Niloufar's job?

Niloufar has several roles. She's Head of Physics at Ruislip High School and works for the Institute of Physics (they promote Physics education) as Teacher Trainer and Supporter. To give you a flavour of her working week, Niloufar might be at her school running the Physics Department on one day, then training and mentoring new Physics teachers on another. On other days she might be working on a project to run workshops for Physics teachers across London or running networking events for new Physics teachers. It's fair to say Niloufar loves Physics and teaching!

How did she get that job?

Niloufar became very passionate about Physics while she was at secondary school. She enjoyed the problem-solving aspect of Physics and being able to test theories in a practical way. She ended up doing a Physics degree at university and then a PGCE (teaching qualification) in Science. Niloufar then did a master's degree in Teacher Management, which has supported her work in educational leadership. Although as a Physics graduate she could have pursued any number of careers, Education always stood out to her. She started her career on £25,000 per year—quite good for a first salary! Niloufar worked full-time for 15 years but now works part-time, which is great because it allows her to explore her other interests.

Why is Niloufar the 'Trainer', 'Communicator' and 'Supporter'?

Niloufar is a perfect example of the 'Trainer', 'Communicator' and 'Supporter' types because of her role as a teacher, teacher-trainer and supporter of newly qualified teachers. Her skills as a communicator are vital! Niloufar believes the 'People Like Me' quiz is a great tool for helping young people match their personality traits with potential careers they may not be aware of.