



Mill Chase Academy

Ambition, Courage, Excellence



Helen Edwards (nee. Thomas)
Mill Chase Student September 1989 to July 1994

College & Qualifications Achieved

Guildford College - NNEB (Nursery Nursing Examinations Board).

A First aider.

Current Role

Nanny

Achievements

When I left Mill chase I knew I wanted to have a career working with children. After finishing my diploma in 1996, the world was my oyster literally. I started out working as a nursery nurse in a baby section in a day nursery. I was then offered a job in the USA where I started as a nanny for 3 children.

After a year I had so much confidence after leaving home and experiencing life in America that I knew I wanted to make the most of seeing the world. So I worked for a holiday company called Mark Warner, completing 5 seasons (winter and summer) and becoming a Head Nanny. I was in charge of 8 nannies and 100 children taking their holidays with us. I also learnt to Ski which was an added bonus.

From this I moved to London and worked for 2 different families until the children started school. It was then time for me to go for it. I landed a wonderful job for a high profile family in Belgium, we travelled the world and I was so lucky to experience the most beautiful countries, stay at the most amazing places and fly in a way that I will never fly again!

From this I knew I had to give something back, with my vast

	<p>experience of looking after children of all ages - newborn to 17. I travelled to Cambodia and taught English to the children. It is something that will stay with me forever.</p> <p>I gave birth to my own child last year and I know that the confidence I have raising him, most certainly comes from my time helping to bring up other people's children. I must add that 3 of these families attended my wedding 2 years ago and now the children themselves are taking their GCSE's, A Levels and attending university. Makes me feel so very proud.</p>
<p>Personal Message</p>	<p>I had some wonderful times at Mill chase. I was extremely musical and played the clarinet. I was in Mr Philpot's jazz band, and he selected me himself. I will never forget being called to his office, terrified of what I had done, to find Mr Philpott and Mr Lloyd smiling, saying I had been picked! I was Chuffed to bits!! We went around the local schools performing, where I would also sing.</p> <p>I have no doubt that this helped my confidence with the outside world. I also had my work experience in a school in Conde-sur-Vire. To have the chance at 15 to go and stay with a French family and experience how they live was a real eye opener to me. I think this gave me my drive to travel and it's something I will always be grateful to Mill Chase for.</p> <p>I also must add that I had the most WONDERFUL Tutor called Mr Lowing, he was SO amazing and even now, 21 years after leaving school I remember what a wonderful man, teacher and support he was. It takes someone pretty special to have the whole tutor group love you to bits.</p>