

Name:

Andrienna Straw (Windmill)

Dates at Hawthorn:

1983-1990

Primary School Attended:

Coedpenmaen Primary School

Current Job:

Teacher of Music (Brass Instruments)

Name of Employer:

Wolverhampton Grammar School, Telford & Wrekin Music Service and Windy Point Music (Own Private Business).

Career Highlights:

My personal career highlights have been taking groups of young people on tours to perform music of an amazingly high standard, displaying some outstanding levels of passion and musicianship, in some of the best concert halls in this country and abroad.

Greatest Achievements:

I have developed an innovative, creative method for teaching whole classes to play a variety of brass instruments together. I have successfully used this method to allow many hundreds of primary aged students the opportunity to engage in music making through the learning of a brass instrument. I am proud to witness many of these young people continuing to play well beyond these early stages. The teaching method is now being adopted by a number of other services and providers across the country.

Favourite memories at Hawthorn:

I really enjoyed my time at Hawthorn and have so many great memories, especially of 6th form life. Most of my time was spent in the Music Department, which I always thoroughly enjoyed but one of my best memories was probably going on a Biology field trip to Abergavenny area for a few days during 6th form. It was in the midst of winter, so very cold and wet, but what a great time we had. I also learnt an awful lot too. I have since gone on to study for a Biology degree through the OU and done many more field trips along the way (an added bonus was all of these have been in the summertime). So I guess my best memories of Hawthorn are probably those teachers who really engaged me at the time and have had a lasting impact on my life choices.

