

# Mr Alex McNish

## Head of School & Education

[LinkedIn](#)    [newburyhall.com](http://newburyhall.com)

*Master of Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition, MA (8.5/10) - University of Barcelona*  
*Bachelor of French Studies with Spanish, BA (Hons) First Class - Queen Mary, University of London*  
*Trinity Certificate in TESOL - Windsor Schools, Oxford*

### Teaching experience:

- IELTS, IGCSE English as a Second Language, the full Cambridge suite of KET, PET, FCE, CAE and CPE exams;
- medical, legal (ILEC) and financial (ICFE) Cambridge English exams;
- economics and psychology A-levels;
- technical English for engineering graduates;
- business English for management undergraduates;
- negotiation skills and writing for diplomats and ambassadors.



### Related experience:

- Curriculum design: Academic Literacy, IELTS, IGCSEs, etc at Newbury Hall;
- Materials design: the British Council's My Class project (Prague), various at Newbury Hall;
- Workshops: IELTS for the British Council, the national ELT Forum Slovakia, OISE regional training, Cambridge exams for Bratislava Economics University, various at Newbury Hall;
- Master's thesis: differential statistical analyses of learner materials by semantic tagging.

I believe that language acquisition is - or should be - as much about learning new ways of thinking, feeling and experiencing one's own and others' cultures and selves as it is about simple communication; the inward and enlightening journey it can offer is often overlooked, especially in schools. I am currently interested in what implications the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis might have for second-language learning and teaching, including the potential links between gesture, language and thought in different languages. When I manage to find the creative space in amongst the day-to-day bustle of school life, I am beginning to wonder whether phonosemantics and euphonics may provide a lesser-travelled road into the design of new language courses.

I enjoy the opportunity at Newbury Hall to build meaningful relationships with students I can really get to know as individuals, and the garden still needs work. In the coming years I intend to keep our teachers' paperwork burden to a minimum so that they can enjoy teaching and invest their time in inspiring our students. I want all Newbury Hall students *to enjoy being challenged by teachers they respect*, to develop a habit of challenging themselves rather than satisficing, and to become curious about collecting and comparing new words, ideas and experiences. I believe deeply in the aims & ethos of the school.

When I am not teaching, I am usually thinking about teaching, and I quite enjoy walking around aimlessly.