



EDINBURGH
STEINER
SCHOOL

Staff Questions

Name: Renske Brune

Position/Class/Subject Taught:

Maths and Biology in the upper school, child protection officer for the upper school

Studies/Career/interests overview:

BSc / MSc in Biology at the University of Amsterdam (1994)

PhD in Anatomy and Embryology at the Medical School, University of Edinburgh (2001)

Advanced Painting Course, Leith School of Art, Edinburgh (2006)

Edinburgh Steiner School Teacher Training Course (2010)

I moved to Edinburgh after university and worked as a scientist as part of a multinational project creating 3D anatomical models of mouse embryos, for 7 years. After coming across Goethe's work I left science and took up painting. I subsequently felt an increasing desire to combine the two strands in my life, which culminated in the Teacher Training Course.

What do you feel makes Edinburgh Steiner School/Waldorf Steiner education so special/relevant in the 21st century?

The wholeness of the education and hence the way the education renders the pupils intact as independent, self-sufficient thinkers. The increasingly complicated world around us calls for clear-headed and self-reliant people, who do not feel they need to adopt every aspect of the modern chaotic world around them in order to be valued and contributing human beings. The Steiner School provides pupils with this independent view.

What special skill/interest/experience do you feel you can bring to the school community/classroom?

The close liaison of art and science and the ability to look beyond the materialistic tendencies of science in order to bring a unified whole in Biology.

Also, a vivid imagination combined with a love for all things mathematical brings a story element to my maths classes.

What is the useful lesson/hardest learnt lesson from your own schooling?

The hardest lesson - that is tricky. All good lessons in life are hard to learn. I guess that the repeated questioning of the material aspects whilst doing my PhD did not satisfy the questioning interest that I felt. I thought for years that my questions would be answered at the next round of questioning until I came across Goethe's work who pointed out that

regular science, although bringing invaluable contributions, mostly focuses on a single aspect of the wonders of life, i.e. the tangible. I believe one has to focus on other aspects as well in order not to lose sight of the whole question at stake.

Thank you for contributing to the web project.

To be returned by Monday 1st May to Kirstin Zhang

