

60 SECONDS with



MRS JEMMA MACKERRAS

Head of the History Department

What made you decide to be a teacher?

I used to pretend to be a teacher (I liked writing on the whiteboard and designing worksheets). In my Year 11 Leavers' Book I was voted 'most likely to come back to (my) school to teach', which I ended up doing! I love the fact that teaching has always existed in some form or other, and that it means something and makes a difference. Plus I get to immerse myself in the subjects I love!

The last book you read?

Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton, I'm enjoying the environmental and political themes.

Who would play you in a movie?

This is a hard question! I really respect actors who challenge the media tendency to airbrush and filter. I loved that Kate Winslet rejected her director's attempt to airbrush her body. But in terms of who should play me... I asked the faculty and Mrs Williams very kindly said that Lily James reminded her of me, so I'll take that!

Your favourite band or musician?

I absolutely can't pick a favourite...but Rusted Root's 'Send me on my Way' reminds me of my wedding day and Haim's Summer Girl makes me smile and think of my daughter.

If you could spend the day in someone else's shoes who would it be and why?

Can it be an animal? I'm quite envious of my cat's chilled out life and would quite enjoy spending a day in his "shoes". The historian in me would also pick someone like Buffy Saint-Marie, to better understand the experience of Native American women trying to bring about change.

What was the last gift you gave someone?

I gave my Year 13 tutees engraved pencils on their last day. I wanted to wish them good luck for the future and to remind them that pencils have erasers on the end because it's okay to make mistakes (full credit to Phoebe Waller-Bridge for this idea).

Why did you choose to work at Becky High?

The students and staff, of course!

