

## Leaden Hall School, Salisbury

**When independent school business manager Andrea Clarke wanted to boost the skills of support staff she got in touch with Train to Gain.**

But when Andrea contacted Train to Gain to talk about her support staff, she was amazed – and delighted – to find out that she could also get funding that would enable her to continue her professional development. Now Andrea, who works at Leaden Hall Girls' Prep School in Salisbury, is about to start an MBA in educational business leadership (international), having recently completed a bridging module.

The two-year MBA will give Andrea an all-round understanding of education management in a fast-changing sector, with an additional international element. Leaden Hall has very strong links with European schools through the EU funded Comenius Programme as well as being an International Status School as governed by the British Council.

The school is a sizeable business in its own right. It educates 220 girls aged four to 11, many of them boarders, and has a total staff of 70 - some 21 of them teachers.

It has a strong ethos in preparing its girls to become 'Successful women of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'.

Andrea said: *"I thought that Train to Gain could only help the school develop its catering and cleaning staff.*

*"So I was delighted when I found out they could part-fund my MBA. It's taken some of the financial pressure off me and is allowing me to continue my professional development, which is very much in keeping with the ethos of the school.*

*"We see training as very important as we continue to take the school forward. The bridging module was on change management in schools, which will be really helpful as there is always so much happening in the education sector."*

As well as giving Andrea a high-level understanding of business development, marketing and general management, the international element of the course will mean the chance to spend a week in a foreign school to learn from their education management methods.

Leadership and Management Adviser for the Train to Gain team in Wiltshire, Jo Howat, helped with the application process for the funding towards Andrea's MBA and secured £1,000 towards the £5,500 course fee.

Jo said: *"I'm so pleased that we could help Andrea achieve her ambition of taking an MBA. It will be hugely beneficial to the school in the future and to Andrea in her career."*