

# SHARON ANINAKWA

HISTORY CURRICULUM  
LEAD, THE CONVENT  
OF JESUS AND MARY  
LANGUAGE COLLEGE

## HA SECONDARY MEMBER



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PROFESSION

## WHY I JOINED

I've been a member of the HA since I was an NQT, so about 9 years now.

**Becoming a member was almost a foregone conclusion.** I trained at the UCL Institute of Education and the articles and the scholarship from *Teaching History* were so ingrained in the course that it made sense to continue to engage in that way through membership.

## WHAT I VALUE

The best thing about being a history teacher is engaging with the professionalism of being a historian but also working with young people in the classroom. The HA brings those worlds together brilliantly. What I value is that it continues to inspire my professional journey in terms of my **subject knowledge, pedagogy and curriculum building**, whether that be by coming to conference, reading *Teaching History*, or going to branch events. It gives us a **professional body and bigger community to be connected to** - that's really important when you're a classroom teacher, which can be a lonely experience.

# PROFESSIONAL IMPACT

Being an HA member has had a massive impact on my professional life. It has given me a **greater understanding of how to teach history more effectively at secondary level**, it's inspired me with new approaches, and it's given me more confidence as a history teacher to know that what I am doing is grounded in a community of shared knowledge. It's really sustained my professionalism and helped me to **stay true to the values of effective teaching** and learning in the history classroom.



Schools need to support staff with being part of associations like the HA. Fundamentally we are the specialists in the school that represent this discipline in the framework of the curriculum, and **the HA allows us to plug into that in a much more effective way**. It gives us that professionalism, that subject-specific CPD, and it enables us to still keep in touch with our subject and still remember why we're doing this. For me, I think what's really important is it **helps me stay in love with my profession**. It gives you an opportunity to develop your own particular passions. There's something for everyone at the HA.

## MY MEMORABLE MOMENT

The highlight for me was as a participant on the HA fellowship programme on Britain and Transatlantic Slavery. It was the **most amazing piece of CPD I've ever been on**; a key turning point in my professional career. We worked with a group of like-minded history teachers, specialists and historians who were committed to doing justice to this kind of history. It revitalised me and was **an experience I'll never forget**.

**Find out more about secondary membership**