Karen Roberts – video transcript

When I was considering career changing I thought it would be a fantastic opportunity for me to use my languages again, which I hadn’t really used in my previous career. I wanted to pass on some of that passion and enthusiasm.

You have the expressive side where obviously you’re communicating with someone who speaks a different language, who’s from a different culture. But you also need to learn the grammar patterns and the grammar rules so it has kind of got two sides. Also I think with modern foreign languages being considered quite a standard academic subject, it not only shows that you can analyse information, it improves your own English because by learning all the parts of speech you’re also going to improve your English, and it will be valuable to employers to have people who can speak languages other than English.

Previous to teaching I was Director of two large research agencies and I was also self-employed for a number of years. In my job that I was doing before I’d really, really enjoyed and I’d really felt a spark and a creativity that comes from working with children and young people.

I’d noticed one of the adverts saying ‘Get into teaching, we’re looking for people to change’ and then it felt like the adverts were around me everywhere so I kind of took that as a sign that maybe now was the time.

What I love about teaching is that it really literally is a different job every day. I know people say that and it sounds a bit of a cliché, but kids are different every day and you’re teaching different lessons every day. What I wanted to hopefully transfer from my market research career was that variety because in market research sometimes you can be in the office writing reports, working with statistics, on other days you’ll be out interviewing people. And I feel like that same variety exists in teaching – you will find it very varied, you will find it very challenging. You will find it intellectually stimulating because it will make you think about your own subject in a different way because you’ve got to communicate it to other people. And you’ll be working in a really supportive, caring environment.