

The Honorary Graduand: Tanisha Hicks-Beresford

Tanisha Hicks-Beresford is to be awarded the Honorary Master of Education.

Tanisha is a teacher and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) consultant committed to disrupting single story narratives about the Black and Brown experience in education. With over ten years in education, she recently co-founded Joy Trail, an educational community- based initiative designed to provide primary and secondary students with richer, more inclusive experiences.

Born in South London, Tanisha moved to Bristol at age 11 and attended Fairfield High School. A formative influence was her time at supplementary school, where learning felt alive and invigorating. A feeling she now strives to bring into mainstream education. Tanisha later earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education, using her academic foundation to challenge traditional approaches to curriculum and inclusion.

Tanisha has served as EDI Lead for a Bristol Multi Academy Trust and she has worked with institutions such as UWE, University of Bristol, UCL's Black Atlantic Innovation Network, Dartington Trust, and Herts for Learning, advising on sustainable anti-racist education strategies. Her work extends to collaborative projects with UWE, including Lit Legacies and Joy Trail, and delivering guest lectures for future educators.

Her expertise has been recognised on BBC News, Twinkl's Not Another Education podcast, and platforms such as the Forum for Global Challenges. Tanisha also co-authored the chapter 'Reflexive Questions for an Anti-Racist Citizenship Education' - found within Decolonising Education for Sustainable Futures - a tool designed to support inclusive teaching.

Beyond her professional work, Tanisha is passionate about bridging the gap between education and community engagement. She believes in creating learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom, ensuring that students not only succeed academically but also develop a strong sense of identity and belonging. Whether through curriculum development, school initiatives, or partnerships with external organisations, her focus remains on empowering young people to understand themselves and the world around them.

Tanisha's mission is clear: to ensure all students feel seen, valued, and inspired to excel.