

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

Mic Horton,  
Primary Estates Manager



# 4.15AM - TIME TO WAKE UP

From the age of 13, I would deliver milk around the local housing estates of Jarrow. I did this for 5 years so the getting-up early habit never stopped!

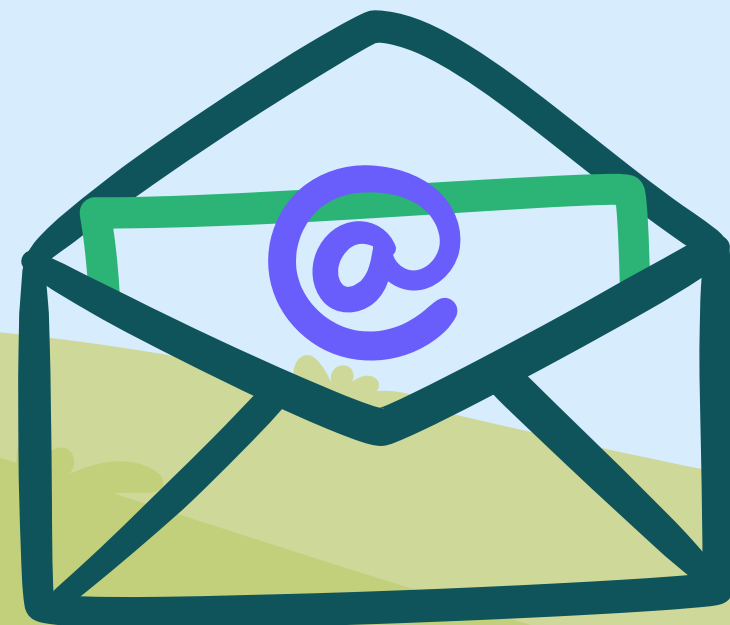
Showered and downstairs ready for my first coffee of the day - which has to be strong - ready to kick start my mind, preparing for the day ahead.



# 5AM - 5.30AM

I check my emails for the day ahead, to work out if I need to alter my calendar. I send out messages if any of the plans made need to change.

I generally know what I have planned for the day but with one email or phone call, the priority can change, meaning I can be going in a totally different direction than originally planned depending on who needs me!



# 6AM

I put my bag in the van with another much-needed coffee.

I always check around the van before setting off - including tires and fluids - to make sure everything is good for the day ahead.



The background features a stylized illustration of a grey road with white dashed lines curving from the left towards the bottom. A black traffic light with red, yellow, and green lights is positioned on a grey pole to the left of the road. In the bottom right corner, there is a large, rounded green bush. The sky is light blue with several white, fluffy clouds.

# 6.15AM

I join the maelstrom of traffic trying to avoid potholes, tractors and Ford Transit pick-up trucks, which appear to randomly place traffic lights in a location for a few days - while people in hi-vis look at a weed growing out from a kerbstone for a few days - and then the lights and workers disappear until the next encounter.



# 7.30AM - 8.30AM

Depending on the school I am visiting, travel can take anywhere from 10 minutes to over 90 minutes, depending on how many hi-vis encampments have been encountered.

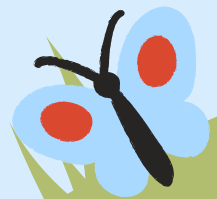
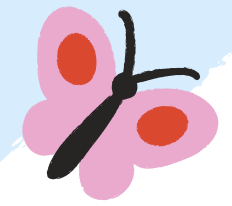
Once I arrive at the school, I catch up with the site manager and get their perspective on any site issues that they may require assistance with. This can range from advice, quick fixes or requesting further funding on bigger projects from the Operations Director, Nick.



# 9AM

The beating heart of all the schools, that keep them going on a day-to-day basis, is the administration teams. They are the fountain of knowledge, who know all the information and are the best to find out the crack from!

I will take time to have a catch up, help them with a rogue Estates invoice or fix a long-occurring minor problem that needs addressed but they haven't had time to mention.

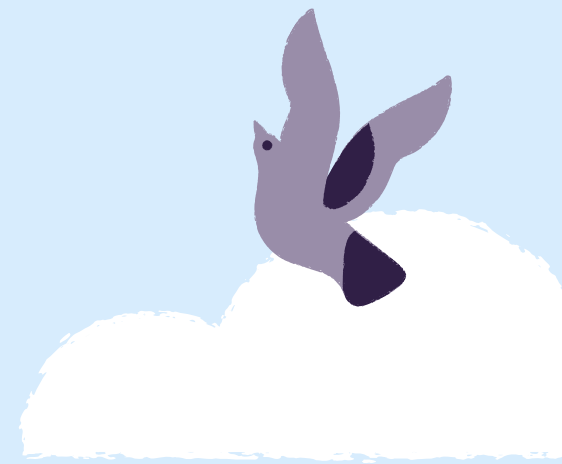
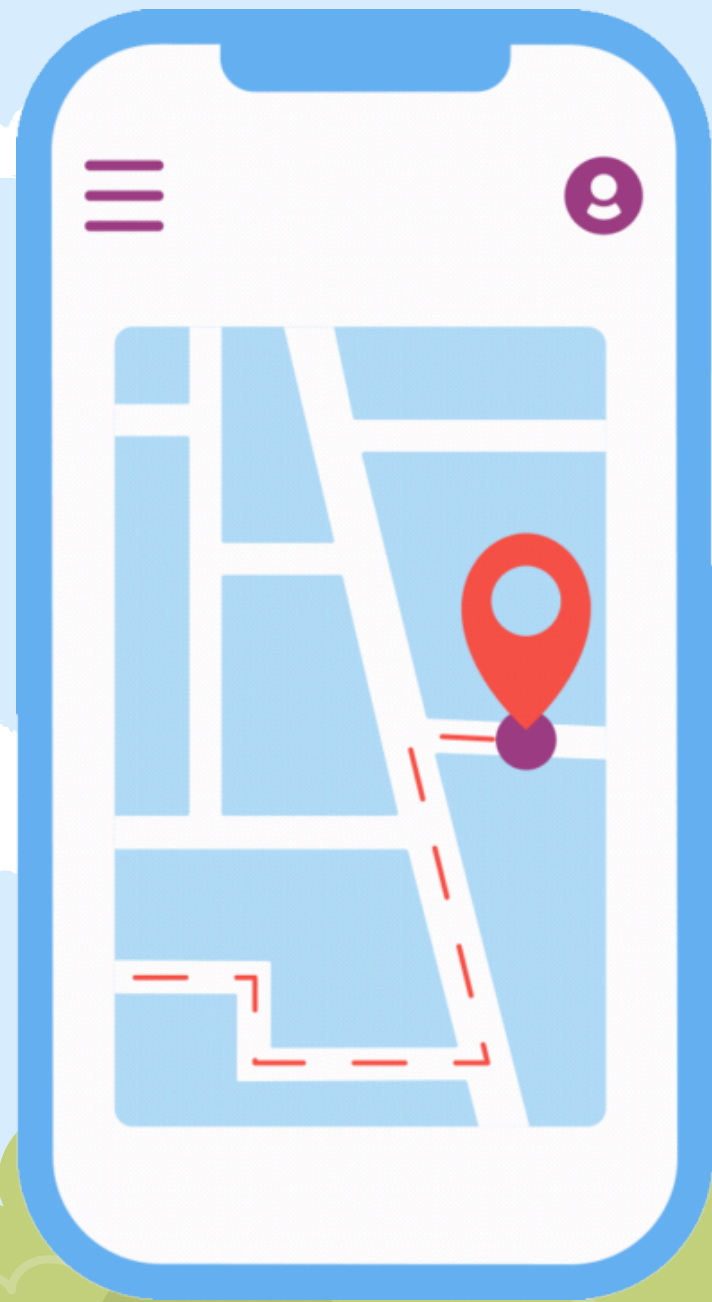


# 12PM

One school down and on to the next.

Lunch is normally on the move or in a lay-by as I squint at my phone to try and read my emails to check if there is anything urgent.

Typically, it is at this point in the day when I am at a school in Kendal and the gas has gone off at one of the schools in the west and I need to get over there as quick as possible!





# 2PM

Unless in a pre-start meeting with a contractor or attending to a break down, I normally point in the direction of home at this point in the day and face down the traffic lights, tractors and people in hi vis!

Once home, the laptop is then removed from the bag and this is the time when paperwork is completed, sat at my dining table.





# 5PM

Around this time, my wife will appear and begin to tell me about her day.

At this point, unless an urgent document or visit needs to be organised, the laptop is closed for the day and social life ensues. Until tomorrow!