



# The Northbridge Public Schools

## Town of Northbridge

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### **Northbridge Public Schools and Northbridge High School Welcome Fulbright Scholar**

Northbridge High School English students were welcomed today by a Fulbright Scholar, Samantha Sheppard. Ms. Sheppard is trading classrooms and houses with Northbridge resident and NHS English teacher, Kristin DeJong.

Samantha is a teacher from Wales in the United Kingdom and is here, for the fall semester, as part of a teacher exchange program run by Fulbright and the Academy for Educational Development. She said she feels privileged to have been selected, and to be teaching at Northbridge High School.

Wales is a country roughly the same size as Massachusetts. It borders England but has its own history, culture and even language. She was born and raised in a small town called Tredegar in the valleys of South Wales, which is known for being the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan, founder of the National Health Service.

Ms. Sheppard has been teaching since 2001, although she also spent a year working in business management. She is a high school teacher, but high school in the UK means students aged between 11 and 18 years of age. Her current school, Fairfield High School, Herefordshire, England, has students aged between 11 and 16 years of age. This is because Fairfield is a small rural school; there are only 380 students. The building dates back to the 1800s, as it was originally a house for a wealthy family. Fairfield is an Arts status school, so teachers are often involved in projects and performances. They have animals, ranging from alpacas to chickens, rabbits and reptiles: students can participate in a vocational course in Animal Care.

Samantha Said, "I am excited to be here and hope to offer the students and faculty of NHS an insight into British, and Welsh, culture: this is a fantastic opportunity for all concerned!"

The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program for U.S. Teachers is administered by the [Academy for Educational Development](http://www.aed.org). While abroad, Fulbright U.S. Teachers are supported by [Fulbright Commissions](http://www.fulbright.com) and/or U.S. Embassies.

The [Fulbright Program](http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/index/fulbright-program.html) is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. It promotes leadership development through learning and international cooperation. The Fulbright Program operates in more than 155 countries and has provided over 285,000 participants — chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential — with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research in each others' countries and exchange ideas. (<http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/index/fulbright-program.html>)

For further information contact:

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