

## Rebecca Johnstone



**Director of International  
Students - Glendowie College**

**Topic:** Strengthening Connections –  
Collaborative Experiences in Kiwi  
Edlink Schools



I was born and raised in Auckland and have lived there all my life, aside from when my family moved to Chicago for 6 months and I was able to study abroad as a teenager. It was a wonderful experience and even though it is an English speaking country, the experience gave me great insight into how our students feel when moving to a new country, city and school.

Throughout my career I have always held roles that have people, particularly young ones, as the priority and focus – from visiting primary schools and encouraging children to bank with ASB Bank, to helping and supporting passengers from all over the world with Air New Zealand and then running a reading programme for second language speakers and international students for 11 years at Glendowie School. Over the last 6 years I have been working at Glendowie College in the international department and for 3 years, as the Director of International Students. With over 17 years in education, I've had the sincere pleasure of seeing students grow in confidence, discover their strengths and succeed in ways they hadn't experienced before. One student that has graduated this year, I met when he was at the primary school I worked in and after knowing him for approximately 7 years, it was a privilege to see him succeed in his studies and graduate from Glendowie College.

Along the way I've been fortunate in forming global connections with educators and partners who share the same passion for supporting young people as I do. I'm constantly inspired by the great people in this sector and the collegial way we work together.

At the heart of everything I do is a simple goal, to encourage young people to achieve their potential. I feel incredibly fortunate to work in a school because I am also learning – the students teach me new things everyday!