

Graphite Capital is delighted to have been named Investor of the Year at the EducationInvestor Awards 2015. Graphite has been raising and managing private equity funds since 1981, focusing on management buy-outs, expansion capital and turnaround opportunities with enterprise values of £25 million to £200 million. We are particularly proud to be supporting growing businesses that are focused on raising educational standards and improving pupil attainment.

We have enjoyed strong success partnering with management teams in the education and human capital sectors. Our interest spans all segments from educational delivery to services. Education businesses that we either have backed or are currently supporting include:

#### Explore Learning, the UK's leading after-school tuition provider

Since partnering with the founder in 2012, we have supported the development of Explore, with the number of educational centres almost doubling to 117 UK sites (with a further 5 centres located in the US) and over 30,000 children enrolled as members. The company focuses on providing educationally effective, individualised mathematics and English tuition to its members as a complement to schooling, fitting around family life. Explore develops its own content alongside licensed material, fully aligning to the requirements of the National Curriculum. It has a strong focus on developing its own staff, as recognised in the

**Bill Mills, founder and chief executive of Explore, has commented:**

"We are delighted that Graphite chose to invest in our business. Their experience of rolling out sector-leading concepts and helping businesses expand in international markets is contributing to refining our customer proposition and shaping our expansion strategy in the UK and overseas."

**John Bowman, CEO, Education Personnel**

"We were impressed by Graphite's operating style and their support of our ambitious growth plans was invaluable. Graphite worked in partnership with the management team to help us drive our expansion strategy."

*Sunday Times* 'Best Companies to Work for' survey in each of the last three years. Explore was also recently crowned *EducationInvestor* 'Private Tuition Centre Operator of the Year' for the fourth time in the last five years.

#### Education Personnel, the UK's leading education recruitment specialist

Our investment in Education Personnel began in 2010 when we acquired Teaching Personnel. A year later, Graphite supported



Mark Hall, partner, Graphite Capital

the company to acquire Protocol Education, with the merger creating the clear number 1 player in the UK. A coordinated organic growth strategy was formulated which included introducing new services and the continued roll-out of the group's national branch network. The business grew its turnover and profitability significantly under our ownership, providing over 800,000 teaching days to over 7,000 schools. Graphite Capital sold Education Personnel in May 2014, generating a strong return for its investors.

If you would like to discuss an investment opportunity or to find out more about us, please contact the team on 0207 825 5300 or visit [www.graphitecapital.com](http://www.graphitecapital.com)