



**NAME**  
ALEX DOUGLAS-KANE

**COMPANY**  
SCHOLA FORIS LTD

**TITLE**  
FOUNDER AND  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

**WEBSITE**  
WWW.WACKYWOODS.CO.UK  
WWW.SCHOLAFORIS.  
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PROFILE **ALEX DOUGLAS-KANE**

Alex Douglas-Kane, 53 years old from Cheshire realised that she could combine all the skills and experiences she had learnt throughout her personal and professional life, to create a unique service that would make a difference to the lives of young people.

Alex had enjoyed many roles throughout her life: a health and safety professional, a girl guide leader, an educator and a school governor; but it was not until a chance meeting with a Forest School Leader that she saw how all her life long skills could help her to set up a company that would ignite her passion and interests.

The Forest Educator described how nature could be used to build up children's confidence and equip them with the tools and practical skills that could be used in all elements of their lives. Hearing about the opportunities forest learning could offer, Alex set about creating Schola Foris with the aim of encouraging children, young people and families to engage with nature and to experience risk awareness.

Schola Foris was founded in October 2009 as a forest school and outdoor learning provider, offering services to schools. The service gives children and young people opportunities to have regular guided sessions in woodlands allowing for the development of self-confidence, and self-esteem. Alex says of the business, "It is a fundamental tenet of ours that what can be learnt indoors can be learnt outdoors, with ancillary physical, social and mental health benefits."

Alex's service has been received so well, that



she has set up 'Wacky Woods' a brand within Schola Foris that provides children, families and young people with opportunities for fun, fresh air and laughter and some risky play. Wacky Woods offers school holiday activities, after school clubs, family days, toddler groups, a regular Saturday nature club and woodland birthday parties.

The organisation has seen in excess of 3000 children spend valuable play and learning time, with a high return rate. Alex employs three staff and hopes that in 2013 she will be able to draw a profit from the company. Alex also plans to obtain a 2nd woodland location to further develop the offering and employ another two part time members of staff.

Schola Foris has enabled Alex to use her lifelong skills and interests to create a successful, exciting service, not only offering Alex a self-fulfilling career but offering children and families the opportunity to experience the social advantages of returning to nature through outdoor play and learning.

Find out more about Alex's business at [www.wackywoods.co.uk/](http://www.wackywoods.co.uk/) and [www.scholaforis.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.scholaforis.blogspot.co.uk)

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