



# Term 1 Viking Newsletter

Dear Viking Families,

Welcome to the first Viking Newsletter of 2023-24. This newsletter is a trust-wide newsletter, going to families of children attending Chilton Primary, Ramsgate Arts and Upton Juniors. It is our opportunity to share the many successes achieved across Viking as well as a platform to share important news and reminders to our Viking community. This first trust-wide newsletter is an introduction of 'who's who' at Viking, to enable you to put faces to names (especially names that appear at the bottom of letters or on emails – but you rarely get to see or meet us). For those of you new to Viking, if I can introduce myself and welcome you in to our 'Viking family'. For those who are already part of the family, a brief reminder of who I am and the role I play working across our schools.

My name is Michaela Lewis and, in my role as Executive Headteacher, it is my privilege to lead the Viking Academy Trust.

I work alongside an amazing team of leaders:



Mr McAuley, [Head at Chilton](#)



Mr Budge, [Head at RAPS](#)



Miss Arthur, [Head at Upton](#)

As well as Mrs Law, [Director of Education at Viking](#)

Chilton families need no introduction to Mrs Law, likewise Year 5 and 6 families at Upton – as she supported Upton during Miss Arthur's maternity leave. For those unfamiliar with Mrs Law's leadership role, she is now weaving her magic working across our three schools – after her extremely successful tenure as Head at Chilton - with her focus on ensuring high quality teaching and learning for every child.

Collectively, it is our job to ensure that every child attending a Viking school receives a first-class educational experience.



**Ramsgate**  
Arts Primary School





## So, what makes a first-class educational experience at Viking?

As we approach the end of the first term of the school year, I can describe to you what is very apparent to me after seven successful weeks... We have three really strong schools in Chilton, RAPS and Upton, each of which has settled into the new school year with aplomb, with staff and children happy and settled. Each school – whilst unique in character from its sister school - has a real feeling of purposeful learning, with the vast majority of children excelling in all aspects of their school lives.

But you don't just have to take my word for it...as plaudits have been received from visitors outside of Viking, with OFSTED visiting RAPS at the end of September. We eagerly await the final report (due to be published early November) but can tell you we were described as being... a really great, really special school indeed!'. A fabulous accolade for everyone who has been part of the RAPS and Viking team that have achieved such a great result for the children. A huge thank you and well done to all of the staff who have made such a positive start to the school year.

There are those staff who are at the chalk face who have a direct impact on the children every day, however, there are also many other teams that have an indirect impact on the children's educational attainment as they provide the support that is necessary for children to achieve. Our back-Office staff, IT team, cleaning, catering and premises teams all help to ensure that our children thrive and remain safe in the Viking environment, and I salute them for all the hard work that they put in on behalf of the children.

There is however, a further group of people who make a huge difference to the work of the Trust, many of whom you won't ever see, or know of their work. The Board of Trustees and Governors are truly hidden heroes, as they are volunteers who bring their experience and knowledge to make sure that we remain financially solvent and operate within a legal framework - dry but necessary facets of trust life. They give many hours of their valuable time, and I am so grateful for the support that they provide for Viking, but also the support that they provide for me personally.

**I take this opportunity to have some of our 'hidden heroes' introduce themselves to you...**

### **Mr N Roby: Chair of Viking Academy Trust / Chair of Governors at Chilton Primary School**



I am both honoured and thrilled to introduce myself as the Chair of Trustees for the Viking Academy Trust. The board and I share a deep commitment to educational excellence and a passion for fostering a nurturing learning environment. Our shared goal is to provide the best possible education for our students, empowering them to thrive academically and personally.

As Chair, I am dedicated to ensuring that our schools continue to grow and excel, working collaboratively with all stakeholders to uphold our values of integrity, vision, and courage. As a parent, all three of my children have thrived at a Viking school and I am genuinely excited to continue to serve this wonderful community.

I look forward to partnering with you to shape a bright future for our children.





## Mrs J Brand: **Chair of Governors at Ramsgate Arts Primary School**

I am proud to introduce myself as the Chair of Governors at Ramsgate Arts Primary and Trustee of the Viking Academy Trust, which RAPS is an integral part of. As an Arts school we offer an exciting twist to the standard curriculum and encourage our children to expand on their learning experience with additional access to the Arts where they can experience creativity through different mediums, whether that be music, sport or art.

As Chair of Governors, I am fully committed to the welfare and nurture of all our students as they follow their learning journey. It is truly a privilege to be part of a new thriving school community and watch our children flourish. I am excited for the future and look forward to getting to know more of you in our amazing parent community as we move forwards together in shaping the next generation of super stars!



## Mr R. Curtis: **Vice Chair of Viking / Chair of Governors at Upton Junior School**

I spent all my working life in education. After teaching in Essex, Berkshire and Gravesend, I finished my career as Head of Dane Court Grammar School for 14 years. I am delighted to be able to continue my involvement with the welfare and development of young people as a member of the Board of Viking Academy Trust and Chair of Governors at Upton. 'One Childhood – One Chance' is the statement that guides all we do at Upton and as governors we strive to ensure that the school works successfully to provide all our children with the best possible chance of a happy and successful future.



Please [click here](#) to watch a (very brief) clip promoting the role of Governors and Trustees in schools. If you would like to contact the Governors with an expression of interest to join Viking's Governance team, or, on the rare occasion, you have had a complaint that remains unresolved, please visit the school website in the first instance for details how to get in touch.

**Final thought... Our 'One Childhood One Chance' philosophy resonates across all aspects of life at Viking.**

For our children to truly excel in our care, we must ensure the relationship between families and school staff is built on trust and respect. Please [click here](#) to read [Viking's Parent Code of Conduct](#).

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have shown our school teams this term. On behalf of everyone at Viking, we wish you a wonderful half term holiday and look forward to building on the positive start to this academic year.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs M Lewis

**Executive Headteacher**



**Ramsgate**  
Arts Primary School

