



Term 1 Viking Newsletter

Dear Viking Families,

Welcome to the first Viking Newsletter of 2024-25. This newsletter is a trust-wide newsletter, going to families of children attending Chilton Primary, Ramsgate Arts and Upton Junior School. 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 Budge (Head at RAPS)



Mr McAuley (Head at Chilton)



Miss Arthur (Head of Upton)



Ramsgate
Arts Primary School



Also Mrs Law (Director of Education),



Mrs Law was Head of School at Chilton for eight years before leaving the school in Mr McAuley's capable hands in 2023. Since then, she has been the Trust's Director of Education, working across the three schools with the Heads and their leadership teams to ensure that our mantra of "getting better never stops" rings true in every corner of the school. She is responsible for all aspects of Teaching and Learning and the quality of education that we offer our children in our three very distinct settings.

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

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 eight 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.

As a parent, your child's teacher and teaching assistants are the staff that have the biggest impact on your child's education as they 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 reception and back-office staff, IT, Sports, Wrap-Around teams as well as cleaning, catering and premises staff all play their part to 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 have taken this opportunity to have some of our 'hidden heroes' introduce themselves to you...



Ramsgate
Arts Primary School



Viking's Hidden Heroes.



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!



Ramsgate
Arts Primary 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.

Viking Success at the Thanet Primary School Cross Country

A rite of passage for children* and parents during primary school has to be spending at least one Saturday morning a year on the field at Quex Park (*children in Years 3,4,5 &6) participating in the bi-annual Cross Country event. Saturday 5th October saw over 100 Viking children race alongside children from other local schools. Viking children made the podium in all but one race, but better than that, every child completing the race won a medal, and raced with determination; showing fairness, respect for one's opponent, and graciousness in winning and losing. It was a proud day for 'Team Viking!'

Below are a selection of photos from the event, please check out school specific social-media for further images:



Emergency 'Out of Hours' Contact Form.

At Viking, we appreciate, despite best efforts, not everything fits within the window of a school day and emergency situations may leave you urgently wanting to contact the school. Office and Head of School emails are shared on school websites – but, as you may have seen – staff are under no obligation to read or respond to work emails outside of the 'working day'.

The message on all Viking email accounts reads as follows... The Viking Academy Trust respects the wellbeing of its staff. There is no expectation that emails are responded to before 8am or after 5pm Monday to Friday, at the weekend or during school holidays.

We have therefore created an 'Emergency Out of Hours' contact form for parents or carers to use if they feel they urgently need to share information / get in touch prior to the start of the next working day. To access this form, please click the 'Contact Us' tab on the school website and the emergency out of hours link can be accessed.

See the example below taken from Upton's website:



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