



# VIKING ACADEMY TRUST

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Michaela Lewis BA'Ed (Hons)  
eht@vikingacademytrust.com

Chilton Lane  
Ramsgate  
Kent  
CT11 0LQ  
T. 01843 597695  
F. 01843 852872

## Ramsgate Arts Primary School: The opening of a new school – A brief summary of the journey so far...

We begin this academic year open as a 'new' Arts Primary school, housed in our magnificent, new, state of the art, premises. The doors opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and we welcomed our first cohort of children to our - albeit incomplete - permanent school building. We are confident that Term 4 2018 will see the completion of the build and our school community can celebrate the official opening of our Free School. A journey that has not been without its challenges but one that has resulted in the creation of an inspirational, ambitious educational establishment...

'Ramsgate Free School' was a new school that opened in September 2014. It was originally proposed because of the shortage of Primary School places in Thanet and further planning for additional housing in the area would bring additional pressure to the local area and a need for school places. The school opened and spent the first two years of its existence in temporary accommodation on Chilton Primary Schools grounds where it was housed in 3 mobiles. It shared all of the school facilities.

The school was due to move to its new 'permanent' site in September 2016 (and then Jan 2017) but due to circumstances beyond the control of both the Viking Academy Trust and the Free School, the facilities on Newington Road were not ready.

Due to restriction on the current site and the consequence of trying to recruit new pupils for a school that has no building, the school end 2016-17 with 15 pupils in Reception, 24 in Year 1 and 29 in a Year 3/4 class. The PAN should have been 60 places per year group with eventual capacity of 420 pupils, this had now been somewhat delayed and has a dramatic effect on funding.

The drive to ensure the Free School remains a viable option was the catalyst for the inception of '**Ramsgate Arts Primary School**'. With the permanent site location no longer in the intended 'catchment area' the core purpose for the establishment of the new free school diminished.



**Chilton Primary School**  
Mrs Kate Law ~ Head of School  
[www.chiltonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.chiltonprimaryschool.co.uk)



**Ramsgate Arts Primary School**  
Mr Nicholas Budge ~ Head of School  
[www.ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk](http://www.ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk)



**Upton Junior School**  
Miss Darci Arthur  
~ Head of School  
[www.upton.kent.sch.uk](http://www.upton.kent.sch.uk)

The 'Free School' needed to have a unique USP to compensate for the new site location in a community with excess school places. Forthwith, the '**Ramsgate Arts Primary School**' came to be...

Architects worked alongside the Trust to design the new school to allow for the '**Arts**' to become integral to the school fabric. A dance studio, art studio, gallery and music room were factored in to the school environment to give life to **Ramsgate Arts Primary School**.

Our vision for Ramsgate Arts Primary School grows in response to the serious erosion of the arts and creativity in schools. We are proud to be the only primary school in the region able to provide a distinct, alternative choice to parents when selecting an education for their child. Our specialism is the creative arts and these will be used to develop excellence in a broad and balanced curriculum, helping our children achieve a foundation for later life.

It goes without saying that a high-quality, rounded and creative education will be the cornerstone of our curriculum provision through which every child can experience the joy of learning and also be supported to reach his or her potential. This is made possible through a relentless focus on high quality teaching and learning, ensuring all children make good or better progress in reading, writing and maths. This academic rigor goes hand in hand with our belief that developing a love of the arts - music, art, dance and drama, will enrich our children and offer them an all-encompassing primary school experience.

We endeavour to nurture and build on creativity. Through our Arts Curriculum, our children are taught the skills of creative subjects. Our specialist teaching team will guide children in learning the value of discipline, commitment and work ethic as well as creative thinking skills. The result will be children who not only have a secure educational foundation, but also have the ability to think outside the box and channel their creativity enabling them to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

We aim to create a calm yet highly stimulating environment, within which every child can feel secure and grow in self-confidence, gaining the necessary personal, social and academic life-skills to succeed in society today as well as preparing them for a largely unknown tomorrow. Classrooms are full of children motivated by positive, well-paced and purposeful lessons which encourage them to develop autonomy and become independent learners. Our staff are passionate about the children's success and ensure that **Ramsgate Arts Primary** provides a first class education for every child.

One Childhood: One Chance!



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