Chilton Primary School / Ramsgate Arts Primary School / Upton Junior School

# Term 1 Viking Newsletter

Dear Viking Families,

Welcome to the first Viking Newsletter of 2025- 2026. 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 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.

Michaela Lewis, Executive Head at Viking

**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**

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.

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 children and staff 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 the commitment and care they give us, ensuring ensure every child has the best start in a Viking school.

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, as their efforts are behind the scenes. Our school governors and trustees 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 school life! Our governors and trustees 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…**

## *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!

**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.

# Meet the Governors…

Each Viking school Chair of Governors is supported in their role with a team of likeminded volunteers fulfilling the role of school governor. They meet as a committee with the Head and school leaders once a term to monitor progress and work alongside Miss Arthur, Mr Budge and Mr McAuley to shape the future direction of the school. Many of our governors also volunteer in school by listening to children read, attending events and gathering feedback from children and parents on ways our Viking schools can make further improvements.

**Our current Viking governors are listed below:**

| Chilton Primary School Governors | Ramsgate Arts Primary School Governors | Upton Junior School Governors |
|---|---|---|
| **Chair:** Mr N Roby | **Chair:** Mrs J Brand | **Chair:** Mr R Curtis |
| **Head of School:** Mr A McAuley | **Head of School:** Mr N Budge | **Head of School:** Miss D Arthur |
| Miss N Barrow | Miss K Amin *(In attendance as AHT)* | Mr D Clarke |
| Mr J Brown | Mr J Brun-Cialis | Mr J Collison |
| Miss H Cheshire *(In attendance as DHT)* | Mrs L Chidwick-Day *(In attendance as AHT)* | Mrs L Felstead |
| Mr D Comber | Mr D Coe | Mr R Kettle *(In attendance as AHT)* |
| Mrs C Reavill *(In attendance as AHT)* | Miss H Dannell *(In attendance as AHT)* | Mr J McLeod |
| Mrs C Roby | Mrs E Mosley | Miss I Reed |
| Mrs H Rowland-Hill | Mrs T-J Higgin | Miss G Scarr *(In attendance as AHT)* |
| Mr D Smitherman | Mr D Holliday *(In attendance as DHT)* | Mr A Somers |
| Mr P Votta *(Trust Standards Lead)* | Mr P Votta *(Trust Standards Lead)* | Mr M Trust |
| Mr D Wheeler | Mrs L White | Mr P Votta *(Trust Standards Lead)* |
| Mrs L Wood | | Mr M Webb |
| | | Mrs L White |
| | | Mr M White |

Please click here to watch (a very brief) clip promoting the role of Governors and Trustees in schools. If you feel inspired and would like to contact the Governors with an expression of interest to join Viking's Governance team, please speak to your Head of School in the first instance or send an email to Mrs N Costin, our Clerk to the Trust: clerk@vikingacademytrust.com

# We Need You! Parents, grandparents, friends of the school…

We are always looking to increase the number of volunteers we have supporting our schools. Maybe governance isn't the type of support you would be interested in providing however, there are many ways you could 'lend a hand' either assisting across the school day in the classroom or listening to children read, or supporting behind the scenes, developing our school grounds or fund raising. Please do speak with the school office in the first instance and share your contact details.

# Junior leaders shape Viking's future...

Junior leaders play an important part in giving all of the children at Viking a voice. By engaging in leadership positions, children learn to take responsibility, make decisions, and collaborate with peers, which enhances their confidence and self-esteem. Our Junior Leaders meet regularly and discuss ideas and points of view raised by their classes. They also conduct pupil surveys on important issues like behaviour and school improvement. As well as children serving on their own school 'leadership team' we also have our Viking Pupil Council, whereby Junior Leaders from across the trust can meet together. The Viking Pupil Council representatives share the best of what's happening in each school and collaborate to make things even better for all Viking children.

## Ramsgate Arts....

**RAPS Junior Leadership Team**
**From the back row- Year 6 - Hugo, Annie, Fenix and Tallulah**
**Year 5 - Alfie, Will, Henry and Grace**
**Year 4 - Skyla, Poppy, Brooke and Noah**
**Year 3 - Jocelyn, Ruudi, Bella and Jack**
**Year 2 - Winnie, Charlotte, Nora and Bertie**

**RAPS Junior Leaders and Deputy Junior Leaders**
**Fenix, Tallulah, Hugo and Annie**

**RAPS House Captains**
**Cleo, Olive, Reece and Buddy**

# Upton....

**Upton House Captains-**
Front row - Woody, Ivy, Maddie, Oliver
Back row - Chloe, Cody, Parker and Eva.

**Upton Members of Parliament -**
Albie, Tess, Olivia and Max.

**Upton Members of Parliament-**
Vihein, Ruby, Arthur, Logan, Ava, Bowen, Ariana, Jahnai, Elsie, Phoebe, Arthur, Victoria, George, Olivia, Hattie, Noah, Alexander, Tilly, Huxley, Ruben, Ottie, Jack, Scarlett, Gurnoor and Hendrix.

# Chilton...

**Chilton House Captains-**
**Lilia, Jacob, Freddie, Ella, Jacob, Max, Isla and Sophia.**

**Chilton Junior Leadership Team**
**Elodie, Freya, Penny, Elliot, Dulcie, Grey, Kacey, Quentin, Molly, Hetti and Sophie**

# 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.  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:**

# Stay in the know and keep in touch...

https://www.ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk
https://www.uptonjunior.com/
https://www.chiltonprimary.co.uk/

RAPS - @ramsgate_arts_primary
Chilton - @ChiltonRamsgate
Upton - @UptonJuniorsBroadstairs

Facebook.com/RamsgateArtsPrimarySchool
Facebook.com/ChiltonPrimarySchool
facebook.com/uptonjuniorschoolofficialbroadstairs

Ramsgate Arts Primary School