



10th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

I trust this letter finds you well. My name is Mark Clutsom, and it is my pleasure to introduce myself as the newly appointed Regional Director for The Thinking Schools Academy Trust in the South East. Having closely followed the admirable journey of The Thinking Schools Trust (TSAT), I am honoured to join an organisation that aligns with my own values and beliefs about transforming life chances. I am deeply committed to learning and understanding our schools and supporting their ongoing success. I firmly believe in the transformative power of education. Together, we can contribute to the creation of a robust, secure, and positive learning experience for students and the broader community in the South East.

Until recently, I worked for Kernow Learning Trust in Cornwall. I have been a Headteacher for 19+ years, including 10 as an Executive Head in a variety of contexts. Post-pandemic, I held the strategic responsibility for IT teaching and learning, e-safety and cyber security for the group of schools.

I have always believed in the need to develop our young people as independent thinkers. We need team players and leaders who can solve problems, be creative, who add real value to our world and the Thinking Schools Academy Trust does just that. I am excited about the next stages of development for each of our schools.

At TSAT, we acknowledge the unique gifts and talents of each student, recognising them as valued members of our community. With your support, we aspire to nurture young minds and prepare students to become well-rounded, and confident individuals of the future. It is my belief that TSAT can deliver the highest standards of teaching, learning, and overall education across all phases. I will play a role in supporting schools in the South East region by promoting best practices, challenging standards, and guiding each school on a journey to realise their true potential and best their best selves. Our schools in the South East are recognised by the Trust as being truly unique in identity and serve a diverse community of families. What brings us together is our mission to collectively Transform Life Chances and celebrate the achievements that define our ever-evolving educational journey.

So far, based on the research I have managed to complete, it is clear that the legacy of two years' disruption through the pandemic has some way to go. However, there are many strengths within each individual school and their respective teams. My challenge is to ensure that the golden threads which run through each school become golden ropes and that every young person gets the very best opportunity to become the best version of themselves.

I am genuinely excited about the journey ahead and look forward to joining the TSAT mission to Transform the Life Chances of young people and deliver an educational experience where children are at the heart of everything we do. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I look forward to meeting you all very soon. Kind regards



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Clutson".

Mark J. Clutson

Regional Director (SE)

Thinking Schools Academy Trust

TRANSFORMING LIFE CHANCES

www.tsatrust.org.uk

Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE
Deputy Chief Executive: Mr L Miller BSc (Hons) FCCA PGCE

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust,
Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR

T: 0333 360 2000
E: info@tsatrust.org.uk

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust's registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.
Company Number: 7359755