

Senior Leadership Team

Tony Doran BEd (Hons) and NPQH - Headteacher



Tony is an experienced Senior Leader within education with a drive and passion in tackling disadvantage and underachievement. The last decade has been mostly spent within inner city and urban secondary schools in challenging situations, developing pastoral systems to support and engage all students in learning. Between 2003 and 2009 Tony developed, implemented and evolved his Attitudes to Learning System, which received national recognition in 2007. This later led to a secondment into the Prime Ministers Delivery Unit as a consultant behaviour expert, during their 2008/9 National Behaviour Review. The 2009/10 academic year was spent as a Behaviour and Attendance Adviser for the South East of England within The National Strategies which included significant work with the Narrowing the Gap Team. This offered Tony a unique opportunity to see local, area and national issues and effective practice. These experiences over the last ten years have solidified a real optimism that through an effective multi agency, strategically co-ordinated approach we can break down barriers that our most vulnerable children face. Together it is our duty to facilitate better outcomes for children in care.

Marian Smith BEd (Hons) and NPQH - Deputy Head - Achievement and Standards (South & East Kent)



Marian joined VSK in March 2012 and has 20 years experience as a primary school teacher including a Headship. Having started as an Assistant Head she has been working as a Deputy Head for five years now and is responsible for managing the countywide Criminal Injuries Compensation Co-ordinators and the five locality teams working across South and East Kent. Marian is also VSK's lead professional for Adoption, Primary and Early Years provision.

Paul Manning BA(Hons) QTLS - Deputy Head - Achievement and Standards (Post16)



I joined VSK in August 2018 after working in Further Education for 16 years. Having started my working life as a chef I returned to Thanet College where I studied to teach catering and hospitality in 2002. I taught on a variety of levels from pre-entry up to Level 3 and had particular success mentoring students to compete in local, national and international competitions. I was promoted to Director of Education, and then appointed Principal of Broadstairs then Folkestone Campus prior to returning to Broadstairs as College Principal in January 2017.

The experiences I have gained over the past 16 years have given me a strong understand of the post 16 offer in Kent. These skills and knowledge will be vital in ensuring we gain the best possible outcomes for the looked after young people of Kent.

Joanne Kelly MA and PGCE - Deputy Head - Achievement and Standards (North & West Kent)



I joined VSK as an Assistant Head in 2011 and took up the Deputy Head post in September 2017. Before that I supported children in different ways such as being a Specialist Teacher for Behaviour and Learning in Gravesham, a consultant in the Medway Behaviour and Educational Support Team, as a SENCO, as a Head of Maths and a class teacher. I have had the privilege of working in a variety of settings in the primary and secondary age groups, as well as in a PRU with a residential facility. My degree was in Economics and History from Cambridge University, I then went on to study teaching and achieved my PGCE and MA. I am currently studying to achieve the NPQSL and I hope to complete that this year. I've been working on a Solihull Approach training programme for professionals supporting fostered and adopted children in conjunction with STLS and CiC CAMHS - and I am currently working with the OCYPC to develop some training on 'In Care in School' for Kent. I look forward to continuing to develop the support for Kent CiC in our schools this year.

Joanne Carpenter – School Bursar and Project Officer

