

# CEO NEWSLETTER



School Year 2018/19

Issue 3

Spring 1

**Dear all,**

This half term, having listened to parents' comments, I decided that it would be helpful if you all were introduced to the members of the Trust Board. Our Trust Board is made up of 11 trustees including me, as CEO.

The Board holds to account the local governing bodies and sets the strategic direction of the Trust. I am delighted that we have representation from so many of our schools but also of others with expertise in a variety of areas. Each and every one of the Trustees brings something to the table and is therefore, able to challenge and support our schools. See for yourself!



## **Ruth Brock, SECAT Chief Executive Officer & Trustee**

*Many of you already know of me and have stopped to speak with me on your way to dropping your children at school or picking them up. But for those of you who don't, I will give you a little information.....*

*I qualified as a teacher in 1987 having gone back to teacher training as a 'mature' student. I began working in Basildon and pretty much since then, have worked with schools in challenging circumstances.*

*After going through the ranks within the teaching profession, I became Headteacher of Beehive Lane Primary School, a role I absolutely loved. I then took on some work for Essex local authority as a School Improvement Partner whilst also training to become an Ofsted inspector.*

*I have therefore, been an Ofsted Inspector for 9 years and as a lead inspector for 5 years. Whilst working as Strategic Lead for School Improvement in Thurrock, I was offered the opportunity to become part of Her Majesty's Inspectorate.*

*Not only have all of these opportunities given me a wealth of experience upon which to draw, they have enabled me to work with a whole range of professionals from the police, social care, counsellors and Headteachers, but also with the most impassioned of groups – you, as parents.*

## **Maurice Sweeting, SECAT Trust Board Chair**

While formally retired; I am currently Chair and Trustee of the SECAT Trust; Governor at Hinguar Community Primary School and Shoeburyness High School; Governor at Hamstel Infant School. I have also been a Governor at Friars Primary School. I am the current Chair of the Southend Education Board, the body responsible for setting the budgets of all education providers within the Local Education Authority, along with a whole range of wider Education issues. I also hold the role of Local Leader of Governance with the Local Authority, providing support to Trusts and Schools as required.

During my professional life I was mainly employed within the Ministry of Defence (34 years) and my specialisms were within Human Resources, Training/Education, Commercial Law – Senior Commercial Officer and Senior Negotiator.

All of which allow me to bring specialist business skills to the Trust Board backed up by an education knowledge, providing the necessary level of balance to support our schools and community. I have since retirement built a skills and knowledge base covering every level of governance in education within the Trust.

## **Simon Goodall, SECAT Trust Board Vice Chair**

I spent 28 years as a secondary classroom teacher before becoming a consultant/advisor for an east midlands education authority training teachers how to cope with new technology in their classrooms. Upon retirement my wife and I moved to Shoeburyness to be near family and I knew that I had expertise that I could offer to the local schools. I became a community governor of Shoeburyness High School within a year of moving to the area. A community governor is not chosen by the parents but is one



who normally lives in the area and has skills that the governing body would find useful in fulfilling their role as the "critical friend" to the school.

I still am a governor at Shoeburyness High School, but when SECAT was established I was asked to become a Trustee of the MAT, a role which I gladly accepted.

I believe that I bring to the Trustees a well-grounded view of education and my expertise as classroom teacher, authority advisor senior leader, local and local governor helps focus the MAT onto the impact that it has across many different levels of education here in Shoeburyness.

***Graham Lane, SECAT Trustee***

I am a retired Chartered Accountant and, prior to retirement I was a partner in a top 30 firm of Chartered Accountants in the City of London. I managed a portfolio of clients as well as overseeing running the office of 230 people and the firm's IT systems. As a result, I have wide experience of project management, procurement, managing people and finance.

I have been a school governor for over twenty-five years at both Thorpedene Junior school and then the merged Primary school. All of our children and one of our grandchildren were educated there. I am also a governor at another local Primary school and, as well as being a Trustee of SECAT I am a Trustee of a local, primary school focused Multi Academy Trust and of two national Maritime Charities. As a result I have a good understanding of most areas of school/academy management.

My experience allows me to bring a common-sense and business approach to education and has taught me to be challenging in a constructive way. The only reason for my activities in education is to help provide the best for the pupils and students to ensure they have a sound education to support them for the rest of their lives.

***Michelle Palles-Clark, SECAT Trustee***

As a newly appointed Trustee (October 2018) I believe I have come from a different path to other Trustees. I have no educational background to draw on having worked successfully within industry in London. My knowledge comes from that and from simply being a parent.

I have two boys aged 21 and 18, both of whom have grown up and attended schools within the SECAT Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). I understand the stresses and strains that come with having children, from the daily dramas to the long-term strategy in supporting and guiding them as they make their life choices. It's hard being a parent and it doesn't seem to get any easier!

My goal as a Trustee is to continue to ensure that this MAT works around your child and provides you with the confidence that, no matter which school in the MAT your child attends, they will all receive the very best quality of education, opportunity and pastoral support to give them the skills, self-assurance and ambition to make their own way in this ever-changing world.



***Brian Sandford, SECAT Trustee***

I have an Honours degree in Geography from the University of Wales and trained as a teacher at the University of Birmingham. I taught for ten years at a comprehensive school in Gloucestershire and whilst there completed a Further Professional Studies Certificate in Education and an Open university Diploma in Education management. I then served for 5 years as the Deputy Head of a Northamptonshire comprehensive school before moving to Southend as the



Headteacher of one of its newest schools, a post I held for 16 years before retiring and subsequently joining one of the oldest of the City of London Livery Companies as their Education Director, a

post I held for 10 years. Upon retirement I became a Freeman of the Company and also of the City of London.

I have been involved with a local Junior School as a Governor for 15 years, 8 of them as the Chair of the Governing Body. I am also a Headteacher Adviser to a school in Kent and the Governance Adviser for a pending Free School Academy Trust. In total I have over 50 years' experience of all aspects of education at school level, headship level, director level and advisory and training levels. Outside the direct education environment I have been Secretary of the Shoebury Society (Promoting the history and heritage of Shoeburyness and the surrounding area) for over 30 years and am very much involved in the work to establish a Shoebury Heritage Centre on the Garrison site.



***"Strong Partnerships, Strong Community, Strong Schools"***

## ***Pam Dewey, SECAT Trustee***

I have lived in this area since I was a toddler and attended Southend High School for Girls, for which I am the Old Girls' Secretary.

After graduating I spent 5 years working in London as a university librarian before deciding to put my degree to better use so trained to teach languages. I enjoyed many years teaching in London, North Essex and locally, taking over 7000 children to France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Austria and Belgium on nearly 200 trips and exchanges.

I became Chief Examiner for French, setting GNVQ exams and continued marking French and German to A Level until a few years ago. I have been a school governor within the MAT for about 14 years and within that time became involved in organising the Southend Music Festival and set up Children's University in Southend.

I have been Vice Chair of Southend School Governor' Association for over 10 years and chaired Shoebury Educational Partnership until we converted this into SECAT. I think I bring wide experience of secondary and primary education as well as governance to the trust. When setting it up and choosing the name what was foremost in my mind was bringing the best opportunities to children within our community, working with colleagues with whom I had already forged a strong partnership. Children, Community and Trust are the reasons why I am passionate about this MAT.

## ***Robin Knight, SECAT Trustee***

I became a parent governor at Shoeburyness High School in 2005, where I will have met a number of you over the years. At SHS I had a number of responsibilities including Finance, Special Educational Needs and chairing the complaints committee. In 2010 I was elected chair of governors, a position I held until 2016. During this time I fostered a co-operative relationship between the governors and the school's leadership team which has proved very effective. Examples such as; steadily improving outcomes for pupils, "good" Ofsted inspections results and converting the school into an academy.



In 2015 I was one of the three chairs of governors at local schools who worked together to form the SECAT Multi Academy Trust (MAT). I Chaired the Board of Trustees for its first 2 years during

which time a total of 6 schools joined the Trust.

My goal has always been to help ensure our children are given the best education possible and therefore the best start in life. The formation of the SECAT MAT opens a whole new range of opportunities to do this.

I have also worked as a volunteer at the winter night shelter (hosted at Bellevue Baptist Church), which provided a hot meal and somewhere to sleep for people who are homeless and sleeping rough.

I work for Leonardo as a I.T. specialist looking after a number of Share-Point systems. These provide a collaboration platform to enabling dispersed employees to work effectively together. Prior to that I was employed as a senior analyst programmer working on small to medium sized management information systems. I have a BSc (Hons) in computing.



## ***Graham Reeder, SECAT Trustee***

I qualified as a teacher in 1974, starting my teaching at West Leigh Junior School and finishing as Deputy Head at Alleyn Court School in 2011. I carried on being a School Inspector until 2013 once interviewing Kasper Schmeichel in his role as a school governor!



I am Chair of Governors of Richmond Primary.

I, therefore, feel that I have the experience and enthusiasm to make SECAT an outstanding Multi-Academy Trust.

## ***Peter Melville, SECAT Trustee***

I am currently the Chief Operating Officer of a similar sized Trust in Essex with a keen interest in the SECAT schools initially because my children attend one of the schools in the Trust. These experiences and others, working with the Department for Education and other agencies help me fulfil my responsibilities of a Trustee, being able to advise and support the executive team in delivering the Trust's vision and goals.

I bring to the Trust my experience, so the Trust can operate compliantly, efficiently and seek further ways to develop and embed change that maximises investment where it is needed, in the classroom. As a Specialist Leader in Education, I can support our growing Trust in all academy business, governance and leadership.





***Southend East Community Academy Trust (SECAT)***  
***is responsible for 6 local schools:***



***Thorpedene Primary  
School***



***Richmond Avenue Primary  
School & Nursery***



***Shoeburyness High  
School***



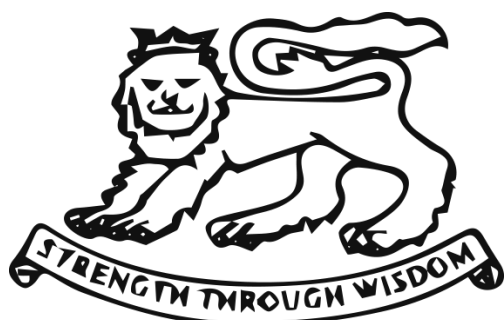
***'Expect Excellence'***

***Hinguar Primary  
School & Nursery***



***Together we achieve***

***Bournes Green Infant  
School***



***Bournes Green Junior  
School***

