



SECAT Executive Team

The Centre Team – SECAT House

Ruth Brock - SECAT Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

- Appointed September 2018
- Previously an HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) for Ofsted, School Improvement Partner and Primary School Headteacher
- Previously Chair of Essex Heads' Association
- Bachelor of Education Degree & Masters in Education Management

Ben Stickley - Chief Operating Officer (COO)

- Appointed July 2020
- Significant experience of senior finance & operations leadership experience in the schools sector, working in Foundation, Multi Academy Trust, Federation and maintained settings
- Post Graduate Diploma in Charity Finance & Accounting from the ICAEW (DChA)
- Bachelor's degree in International Business Studies and Masters degree in Voluntary Sector Management
- Accredited School Resource Management Advisor for the Department for Education
- Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management (FinstLM)
- Previous leadership experience in the charities sector

Central Finance

Debbie Trumble - Finance Director

- Appointed 2019
- Experience of working in school finance since 2000, having worked at St Bernard's, The FitzWimarc School and Porters Grange Primary.
- Full Membership of AAT
- LA School Finance Service Officer for Southend Borough Council for 8 years, supporting schools and delivering bespoke training.
- Previously School Business Manager within one of the SECAT schools
- Working experience of audit and accountancy as a trainee Chartered Accountant.
- Assistant Accountant for a Lloyds underwriting agency

Central HR

Gabriella Ore – HR Manager

- Appointed September 2019
- Bachelor degree in Cognitive Science
- Chartered Member of the CIPD
- Worked as a HR Officer at the Local Authority and provided HR services to several schools, such as, St Thomas More High School and Eastwood Academy, as well as other service providers within the borough since 2009
- Prior to the Multi Academy Trust being formed, I Joined Shoeburyness High School in 2013 as Personnel Officer
- Promoted to Senior Personnel Manager

Central ICT

Terry Dignam – Trust ICT Manager

- Worked within education since 2010, originally starting my career as a Music Technician before changing department and joining the ICT Support team
- Experienced in leading the successful delivery and support of all ICT services within schools
- I have a passion for all things EdTech and helping schools to embrace and enhance digital transformation
- Certified Microsoft Innovative Educator
- Microsoft Service Adoption Specialist
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold award holder and a Duke of Edinburgh Leader and Assessor

Academy Headteachers

Clare Costello – Shoeburyness High School

- Appointed 2018
- Entered into teaching following short career in Scientific Research – working for The Rayne Institute in London (Cardiovascular Research)
- Experience presenting at conferences in Liege, Paris & Prague
- Experience in several schools, including Southchurch (Thorpe Bay High), Westcliff High School for Girls, Cecil Jones Academy
- Joined Shoeburyness High School in 2003 as Head of Science and from there lead the School's Specialist Technology College status
- Promoted to Assistant Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher for Curriculum.

James Lupton – Bournes Green Junior School

- Appointed 2016
- Graduated in 2001- BA Hons Primary Education with QTS English
- First teaching post- Teacher, Year Group Leader and English Leader at Thorpe Greenways
- Second teaching post- Deputy Headteacher (& Acting Headteacher for a time) at Thorpedene
- NPQML & NPQSL Leadership Qualifications
- SPSSA Executive Committee Member (Sport)

Lynn Cooney – Bournes Green Infant School

- Appointed 2017
- Worked in education for over 20 years
- As a Deputy Head in another school played an Integral role in moving the school from special measure to good.
- Successfully developed and led programmes to develop NQTs and RQTs
- In past 5 years achieved both NPQSL & NPQH

Shelley Walsh – Executive Headteacher for both Thorpedene Primary School & Richmond Avenue Primary School & Nursery

- Appointed April 2015
- Currently an LLE (Local Leader of Education)
- Supported previous school in moving from Special Measures to Good
- Over 10 years' experience in leading and supporting schools across the borough, previously as an AST and Teaching & Learning Consultant for Southend Borough Council
- Former OFSTED inspector

Alison Waite – Hinguar Primary School & Nursery

- Appointed January 2020
- Achieved NPQH in January 2006
- Worked in education for 31 years in seven schools across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.

- Eleven years' experience as Headteacher of a large junior school and five years, prior to that, as a Deputy Headteacher of a primary school.
- Trained as a Professional Partner supporting new Headteachers within their first two years of headship. Also as a Peer Reviewer to assist in school improvement through the coaching model.
- Led programmes to develop NQTs and coached two maths leaders in qualifying as Maths Mastery specialists.
- As part of the Thames Primary Consortium interviewed, coached and assessed SCITT students.
- Assisted in the development of a Collaborative Learning Centre, including a sensory room, which afforded opportunities for twelve primary schools, two secondary schools and one special needs school to work collaboratively, using computing as the driver.
- Chaired a Local Delivery Group for two years