



# Term 4 Viking Newsletter

Dear Viking Families,

We reach the end of another hugely successful term for all of the schools in the Viking Academy Trust and I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the outstanding learning experiences of our pupils during the last six weeks. It has been a pleasure to work alongside parents, staff and children and to witness such a thriving community at work.

The unsung heroes of our community, however, are the volunteers, who, as part of their civic duty, give up their time to hear children read, joining us on school trips, acting as minibus drivers and gardeners, as well as feeding the animals in the RAPS petting zoo. We thank you all for your dedication, but we could always do with more volunteers. If you have the time and inclination to give up a few hours, please contact your child's (or grandchild's) school office. You will, of course, have to undergo rigorous safeguarding checks, but please, if you have the capacity to support us in educating your children and grandchildren - get in touch!



Last term I spoke about the Golden Thread that runs through the VAT schools, the virtues, that we emphasise, that children will need to understand and subscribe to if they are to be successful as learners and as citizens in their future lives.

During the past couple of weeks, I have learned of the Golden Thread that runs through the Justice system, the fact that any accused person is innocent until proven guilty in British law. I have undertaken jury service, as part of my civic and democratic duty as a citizen, and it has highlighted that the virtues that we teach: courage; aspiration; teamwork; and perseverance are also at play in every courtroom, every day, across the country. As jurors we had to persevere and listen carefully to the arguments of the prosecution and the defence, we had to have the courage to work as a team and come to a decision as to the outcome for the accused.

This whole process made me reflect on the countless opportunities that we provide for the children of the Trust to learn to play their part as citizens of Viking, as well as preparing them to play their part in the wider community as local, national and global citizens.

- Our children are taught the importance of the democratic process and take part in school elections voting Junior Leaders to represent their views as part of the JLT (Junior Leadership Team) or School Council
- They have opportunities to raise money for charity, developing their emotional intelligence and empathy.
- They are given opportunities to represent their school in sporting and musical contexts, extending their confidence by performing to an audience.
- They are taught key skills in keeping themselves safe from harm, on the roads, on the internet and through making safe choices.





Alongside this we develop and practice, with children, the softer skills they will need in life, skills that will make them good people and good citizens.

- The ability to greet others and maintain eye contact, essentials in starting and maintaining successful relationships.
- The ability to interact with a self-confidence and self-belief, to display empathy and understanding to others, kindness and respect.
- To be able to communicate and articulate oneself and feel at ease in different situations with different people. To be able to disagree amicably.
- To respect opinions and viewpoints that are different to the ones we hold and accept that difference isn't wrong, to disagree amicably, appreciating to challenge different viewpoints doesn't have to be argumentative.

All of these things are as true for our Viking family as they are for the country and indeed the world. Multicultural, multi faith modern Britain needs schools to support families to raise children who recognise we all must play our part and take responsibility for our actions. Be that by accepting a jury summons, looking at ways to enhance environmental sustainability, not tolerating rude or aggressive behaviours and generally looking to be kinder - to ourselves and each other.



**Viking Speaker Competition 2024-**  
**[CLICK HERE](#) to read about it!**

Respect is the foundation of any relationship and is fundamental if parent/staff relationships are to be positive and fruitful. The summer term brings the hope of warmer weather and I ask that it is only the temperature that rises and not tempers! Sadly, our office staff and senior leaders have seen an increase in aggressive behaviour and use of inappropriate language – on the telephone and also whilst parents are on the school site. We have a zero-tolerance policy and parental code of conduct, which we rarely have to use, but are there to be used in exceptional circumstances. The overwhelming majority of our parents are kind, thoughtful and respectful, and we really appreciate their friendship, however, any instances of unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated, in common with your GP surgery, the hospital, your bank or the council offices.

I ask that if you are dissatisfied with any aspect of school life, or you seek answers to questions you may have – that you reach out and speak with us before making your views public by posting on social media. As we say time and again, we are not perfect, we will make mistakes, but believe me when I tell you we do not intentionally set out to get something wrong – because that would be just silly, and silly we are not! Communication is key, so talk to us. Let's never forget we on the same side, we want the very best for every one of our Viking children.

**On behalf of the staff teams working at Chilton, at RAPS and at Upton, I wish you a lovely Easter holiday. With the clocks going forward on Sunday, we have lighter evenings to look forward to knowing summer is on the horizon.**

With my warmest wishes

Mrs M Lewis  
Executive Headteacher



**Ramsgate**  
Arts Primary School

