

Letter from Dr Jo Saxton Chief Executive, Turner School, to staff, March 2019

Appointment of Deputy Chief Executive

Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing today to let you know that our Trust Board and I have appointed a senior colleague to join our mission to deliver a powerful education that overcomes educational underperformance.

His name is Seamus Murphy and he joins us in the post of Deputy Chief Executive. In this role he brings with him an impressive track record of headship and school improvement in Head, Executive Head posts and as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors for Ofsted — for whom he still inspects. As a Headteacher Seamus successfully led Dartford Science and Technology College from special measures to Ofsted Good in thirteen months, and as an Executive head, Community College Whitstable from Requires Improvement to Good, and Meopham from Good to Outstanding.

Seamus began his career at The New Statesman, and entered teaching as a teacher of History, becoming a head of History, before moving in to senior leadership and system leadership under the London Challenge initiative.

I first met Seamus during our search for an Executive Principal for Folkestone Academy. Accordingly, one of his responsibilities as DCEO will be to provide executive principal function when and where needed in our trust schools.

In addition to the expertise and track-record in Headship and Executive Headship that we gain with Seamus, his appointment creates additional capacity so that I will be able to focus on the thing that brought me here in the first place; curriculum, and I look forward to working with more of you on that as a result. I want Turner Schools to be known for our expertise in curriculum and this move will help us further along that path. I will also be able to work on wider Trust initiatives.

Making this appointment is an investment in Turner Schools' future, and to that end I have secured grant funding that will cover the cost of this role, so that it doesn't create an additional financial pressure at a time when school funding is challenging.

We are currently working to agree a start-date.

If you have any questions about this, do please speak to your Principal, to Hayley, or to me.

I know you will join me in welcoming Seamus to Turner Schools.

Jo.

Turner Schools