



Weald of Kent
Grammar School



Mrs S Clark – Acting Head Teacher

I started teaching in 1991 as an unqualified teacher of English and History at a wide ability school in North-West Kent, two months after I graduated with a degree in Literature and History. I returned to university in 1992 and completed my PGCE in English and Drama in 1993. I spent the next two years of my career at the same school I had started my career at teaching English to the students.

In 1995, I joined the Weald of Kent as the Key Stage Four English Coordinator and have been at the school ever since. I held a variety of middle leadership roles over that time and from 1999-2006 was the Head of Lower School overseeing the pastoral curriculum for Years 7 – 10. In 2006, I joined the Senior Leadership Group of the school as an Assistant Headteacher and was part of the Senior Leadership team that achieved the school's Ofsted outstanding designation in 2007. In 2012, I became a Deputy Headteacher and then, most recently, the Senior Deputy Headteacher.

During my time as a senior leader, I have led many different briefs including: whole school improvement and self-evaluation; quality assurance; teaching and learning; the curriculum and timetabling; the specialist college; staffing; the Sixth Form; CPD; performance development and line managing specific curriculum areas. My experience of leadership is broad, and I have led both the academic and pastoral curriculums over the course of my career.

I chose to become a teacher as I am committed to sharing my love of my subject with children and young people and know how rewarding it is to see the students you teach share your enthusiasm and passion for what you are teaching them. I will be continuing to teach A Level English Literature to my Year 13 class, as I believe it is essential for leaders to know first-hand what it is like to teach the current curriculum and hear directly from students how they feel about what they are learning at school.

Over the last four years I have been a co-facilitator of the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership delivering the programme on behalf of LLSE (Leadership Learning South-East) to both aspiring and practising educational senior leaders across Kent. This experience has been a privilege as it has allowed me to help to develop the skills and attributes of a range of senior leaders from both different phases and school contexts. I attained the National Professional Qualification for Headship earlier in my career which is the only nationally accredited qualification for headship that recognises the key skills and attributes required of educational leaders when leading schools. I have a long-standing interest in the development of both mentoring and coaching cultures in schools and am actively involved in coaching a professional practitioner who works outside of an educational context.

All three of my own children attended the Weald of Kent Grammar School in the Sixth Form and benefited from the education that the school provides. Having been both an employee, but also a parent of children at the school, I know how invaluable it is that the school works in partnership with all stakeholders, in order to benefit the children, young people and communities we serve.