



Dr Fiona Hammans

PhD, BSc, PGCE, NPQH, PQSI, FRSA

CEO

After an early career in research science, Fiona began teaching, rapidly being promoted to headship in a large, secondary school in England, which was internationally focused, welcoming children and young people from all parts of the globe. This expanded to a small group including two primary schools, a nursery and the setup of the first 'space specialism' school in the UK.

After headship, she took on a role with a multi-academy trust, as Director of New Projects and Chief Inspector for the group. This involved providing advice and training in preparation for Ofsted inspections, quality assurance, and project management for new schools and capital developments.

Fiona was delighted to join Abingdon Learning Trust in November 2018 as part-time CEO, and she continues her consultancy, founded in 2015, providing a range of services to schools, academies and MATs, both mainstream, AP/PRUs, independent sector and in the international sector.

Fiona is currently a Member of The White Horse Federation, a large MAT based in the SW region, with over two years as a Trustee, Chairing the Remuneration Committee and as a member of the Teaching, Learning and Standards Committee until 2019.

Throughout her senior school leadership roles she was an active member of the Association of School and College Leaders and served on its National Executive, served as Treasurer for three years and as Chair of Pay and Conditions Committee.

Fiona has trained and practiced as an Ofsted inspector. She is an Examiner for the Masters in Teaching and Learning for Oxford University, and was an Honorary Norham Fellow of the university between 2012 and 2016.



Zoe Bratt
BA (Hons)

CFO

Zoe commenced her career working in the Engineering Sector within a training department of an international company. The next move was into the Ceramic Industry managing school leavers who were applying for apprenticeships across the sectors. This role also involved a time working as a HR Manager for a Pottery Company, whilst taking a lead role in writing the National Apprenticeship for Ceramic graduates.

After a career break, Zoe entered the Education Sector, initially as a school governor, then as a Business Manager in pre-school education then relocated to Oxfordshire.

Zoe has worked in Primary and Secondary Schools within the Maintained and Academy Sector since 2004 and is now the Chief Finance Officer with Abingdon Learning Trust.

During the time with the Trust, Zoe has been the part of the leadership team at one of the Primary Schools, taking a leading role in moving the School through the transition from maintained to academy status and has been directly involved with the transition of the Secondary Schools into the Trust.

Zoe has a proven track record with successful financial management and complementary audit reviews since working in the education sector.

Zoe is continuing her career development both on the job and is currently working towards her AAT qualification and is a member of the ISBL.

Outside of her career, Zoe was a Cub Scout Leader for many years and then a Group Scout Leader supporting the local community with many events.



Sarah Brinkley

BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, FCCT

Executive Headteacher, Director of Secondary Education

Sarah went straight into teaching after studying at Sussex University, teaching English in Hove, West Sussex. She moved into educational leadership quickly as deputy head of sixth form, establishing and leading school sixth forms in West Berkshire, at Trinity School, Newbury (graded 'good' within 18 months of opening), and in Oxfordshire, at Matthew Arnold School, where the sixth form achieved an 'outstanding' rating under her leadership.

Sarah took up the post as deputy headteacher with responsibility for teaching and learning (as well as community engagement) in September 2008 moving to Headship in 2011. She was instrumental in moving her second headship school from 'RI' to 'good' rapidly, and taking recruitment from below 50% to oversubscribed in the same time frame.

Sarah was appointed as Executive Headteacher at Abingdon Learning Trust in November 2019. As a headteacher she has succeeded in turning around the finances of one school which was substantially in deficit, and driven up standards in both, securing 'good' with 'outstanding' sixth form provision in May 2019.

A proud advocate of teaching as a profession, Sarah was an early recruit to the Chartered College as a founding fellow, and has created a dynamic research and innovation faculty to drive strategy in the secondary sector at the Trust.

She has worked as a consultant for the SSAT, been a teaching and learning consultant across three counties, and key note speaker on 'Creativity in the Classroom' and ALPS at several national conferences.

She is currently studying for a Masters in Educational Leadership.



Rachel Gallyot

BA, NPQH, MA

Director of Primary Education

Rachel has worked for both smaller, local MATs and larger, national chains and has a wealth of experience leading across groups of school. As a Regional Director of 12 schools across the South West she lead 10 primaries, 1 secondary and 1 special school and established a school improvement model that focused professional development across groups of schools and bring leaders together to identify shared priorities and expertise.

Rachel has a sustained track record of school improvement across a range of schools and Ofsted categories. Rachel has used her expertise in school improvement to lead schools through difficult times and has worked with schools on the removal of special measures and as an Executive Headteacher across a 2-19 age range of schools. The majority of her skill-set lays within the primary sector and particularly in the development of Reading and Writing.

She has also led a Strategic School Improvement Funded project that formed part of the 'No Child Left Behind Strategy in York' that focused on the development of primary aged writing, particularly for those children who are disadvantaged. This project pulled together system leaders to work collaboratively across 33 schools.

Rachel has also worked as a senior advisor for Slough Borough Council on developing a collaborative working model across a range of MATs and maintained schools. Within this model funding was allocated for projects focused on the local priority of disadvantaged pupils, working with the Rosendale Research School.

Rachel is delighted to be the Primary Director for the Abingdon Learning Trust and shares this role with a part-time CEO role for another, small multi-academy trust. She works as a coach through the Teaching Schools Council - Women Leading in Education initiative that is aimed at supporting women into leadership roles.

Rachel has also been the Chair of Trustees for an Early Years setting serving a deprived community that achieved outstanding status.