



Turner Free School announces top team appointments

++ Oversubscribed school to open in September with big-hitting team ++

The Turner Free School, a brand new school that will open its gates in September 2018, is today announcing its Senior Leadership Team appointments, with three Assistant Principals.

Michael Chapman, Charley O'Regan and Bob McKay have all been appointed as Assistant Principals, supporting Kristina Yates as Principal.

Part of the Turner Schools trust, the new free school which is opening on the former Pent Valley site in September, is already significantly oversubscribed. The school will open with 120 places for Year 7, and the school has received 231 applications. Parents will find out whether they have been successful in securing a place on 1 March.

The three appointments represent an exciting milestone for the Turner Free School, with talented educationalists committing to the new school and its mission of #seachange.

Kristina Yates, Principal of the Turner Free School said:

"The quality of applications for our Senior Leadership Team was exceptional and we were delighted to appoint three Assistant Principals from the high-calibre field. This Senior Leadership Team brings a depth of knowledge and experience of leadership to our school. With subject specialists in the Sciences, Languages and Humanities, we are in a great place to establish the Turner Free School as a centre of academic learning for all of our students. I am thrilled that such dedicated professionals are joining us on our mission to improve the lives of children in Folkestone."

Michael Chapman said:

"I can't wait to get started at Team Turner, we have a very rare opportunity to create a fantastic new school together that Folkestone will be proud of."

Charley O'Regan said:

"I feel truly privileged to be joining Team Turner. Having the chance to be involved in creating a school for the community that will enable all its students to reach the highest levels of academic success is so exciting. I look forward to bringing my experience and passion for well-being and mental health into this academically challenging curriculum so that all students can thrive regardless of their life experiences so far."

Bob McKay said:

“I am thrilled to be a part of the exciting new opportunities presented by Turner Free School and am looking forward to working with Kristina Yates and other colleagues to increase the educational opportunities available to the children of Folkestone.”

The three Assistant Principals will take up their posts from June. In early March the Turner Free School will be hosting drop-in sessions for parents to meet the team after places have been offered on 1 March.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. Biographical information on each of the appointments is provided below:

Michael Chapman – Assistant Principal

Michael grew up in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire with a passion for the outdoors and Rugby League. He studied Geography and Geology at Brunel University in London and completed a Masters degree in Environmental change.

He is currently a Head of Faculty that includes the subjects of Maths, Business Studies and Psychology at Towers School.

Charley O’Regan - Assistant Principal

Charley grew up in Cheriton, just down the road from the Turner Free School site. She attended All Souls Primary School and The Folkestone School For Girls before going on to secure a First Class honours degree in Physics and the Universe at Reading University. Being a Folkestone girl at heart, Charley returned to do her Teacher Training at Canterbury Christ Church and then started her career at The Folkestone Academy where she was Head of Physics.

Charley is now at The Folkestone School For Girls where she has had a variety of roles including Head of Science. She is currently an Assistant Principal with responsibility for Behaviour and Welfare, which includes the leadership of pastoral care for Key Stage Three and Four, Safeguarding and SEND.

Bob McKay - Assistant Principal

Bob was born and raised in Kent, attending Astor County Primary School (now Priory Fields School) before sitting his GCSEs and A-levels at Dover Grammar School for Boys, where he currently works as the Assistant Headteacher responsible for teaching & learning. Bob achieved a First Class honours degree in French at the University of Kent, and spent a year working in a French sixth form as part of this degree, before moving to Boulogne-sur-Mer to complete a Masters degree in the teaching of French as a foreign language.

His other teaching posts have included time as a teacher of modern languages at Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre, and as Director of Languages and Assistant Principal at The Folkestone School for Girls.