



## A Message from our Chief Executive

I am immensely **proud** to be working with the **Challenger Multi Academy Trust** and hope you find the information in our prospectus **useful** in helping you to **decide** if you wish to become part of the **Challenger family**.

Our vision is to build a collaborative partnership of schools that will provide outstanding educational provision both in and outside the classroom through challenge and promoting excellence. Our improvement model is based on school led, school-to-school support developed through a model of collaborative autonomy. Whether you are a good or outstanding school looking to add capacity and take on a leadership role within a larger organisation or a school looking to be part of family of schools that will support you on your journey to outstanding, the 'Challenger Model' ensures all our schools have strong networks and a strong voice in their future. Working with a range of partners and individuals with a proven track record in school improvement and partnership working we will help

you build strong capacity to improve from within and a culture that looks outward and never stops aiming to achieve excellence.

The Challenger offer with a focus on learning both in and outside the classroom is unique. The Challenger Diploma exists to acknowledge and promote the achievements of children, staff and the community in this area and to be at the heart of the improvement agenda. Our trustees are committed to ensuring that the opportunities provided for children and young people in our schools and academies allow them to grow as individuals, embrace challenge in all aspects of their lives and achieve and expect excellence. Please take the time to read our prospectus and please get in touch if you would like to know more about being part of the Challenger family.



**Stephen Chamberlain**

MA, BA(Hons), PGCE(Mus), NPQH, MloD, FCMI, FRSA.

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### Some of our partners:



Professor Mick Waters  
University of Wolverhampton



Stephen's most recent role is Regional Director of Education in the East of England for a large multi academy trust where he oversees the work of fifteen primary, secondary and special academies. He is also on the Executive Board of a highly successful Teaching School Alliance. He was previously the Executive Principal of the Clacton Coastal Academy as well as undertaking other Executive Principal roles in a number of academies. Clacton Coastal Academy was one of the top fifteen most improved academies nationally in 2010 and in the top three in the Eastern Region. As a result of working with Stephen and his team, two primary academies originally in special measures before joining the trust have been now been removed from a category with one moving to 'good' in just five terms. One large secondary academy has now been graded 'outstanding' and is now a teaching school. He is currently working with a number of other teaching schools on the Improving Teacher and OLEVI Accredited Outstanding Teacher Programmes as a facilitator as well as directing other leadership programmes. Stephen regularly speaks at a number of national and international conferences on a range of issues both in this country and abroad including China, San Diego and Finland.

#### Ofsted commented in 2011:

Its (the academy) key strength is its executive principal; his determined leadership and vision for the academy has raised the expectations of staff and the aspirations of students. His excellent leadership has accelerated a number of improvements and generated good capacity to make further gains.'

Prior to joining AET, Stephen was a Headteacher of a large comprehensive school in West Essex which is now 'outstanding' and Chair of an Education Improvement Partnership of 45

primary and secondary schools. As Chair, he was responsible for leading the development of a Children's Centre Network in West Essex, the establishment of sixth form provision in 11-16 schools and the opening of the Jiangsu Centre to promote Chinese language and culture across Essex. During this time he was also a tutor on the NCSL Associate Headteacher Programme, NPQH programmes and currently delivers a number of sessions on PGCE, School Direct and other teaching programmes for the North Essex Teacher Training scheme and a number of university based and teaching school courses.

Stephen is an experienced Ofsted Inspector and trained Lead Inspector and has extensive experience of the inspection framework and the processes of school improvement. He has worked as an Accredited Consultant for the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust for over ten years working in the areas of re-designation, schools in challenging circumstances and the arts nationally. Stephen is also an experienced Advisor working for a local authority on leadership, information and communications technology and music technology, working with a wide range of schools.

Stephen has been appointed as the Chancellor of Suffolk Children's University and is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute

Outside of education, Stephen originally trained as a cellist as well as a choral and orchestral conductor at Brunel University and a major London conservatoire and has conducted a wide range of orchestras and musical productions in the UK and abroad. He has also led music and composition projects and workshops with the Royal College of Music, the BBC, the Royal Opera House and a number of other arts organisations.

## Testimonials

*'I have been **fortunate** to have worked with Stephen across a number of schools in the South-East of England. I have always found him to be a highly **knowledgeable** and **supportive** colleague with great **integrity**. He is **passionate** about ensuring that all students under his care reach their **full potential** and his **dedication** and **commitment** to his role as Regional Director of Education has been quite extraordinary.'*

**David Bartram-Director of SEN**  
London Leadership Strategy

*'The **inspirational** leadership consistently demonstrated by Stephen as a Principal, Executive Principal or Regional Director has been my **guiding light**. He is best **leader** I have ever met or worked with and is able to drive educational transformation in many different contexts. He is able to **anticipate** what is happening in education and get there before others have even thought about it! The **emotionally intelligent** way in which he is able to secure this transformation makes him a very rare breed, a truly **world class leader**.'*

**Benedick Ashmore-Short**  
Principal, Hamford Primary Academy  
*Finalist: Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School*

*'I have known and worked with Stephen for many years. Stephen has **outstanding knowledge** and **expertise** in relation to **developing** and **recognising excellence**. He effectively balances **challenge** and **support** and celebrates and acknowledges the ideas and **innovations** of others. His contribution would be an **asset** to any school or organisation'*

**Caroline Haynes**  
Principal, Tendring Technology College  
National Leader of Education, Tendring Teaching School Alliance  
*Member: DfE Headteacher Board, North East London & East of England*

*'**Charismatic, driven, and accountable** are all words that describe what I have experienced whilst working under Stephen's direction, but what makes him truly **inspirational** is his **belief** and **persistence** in challenging the **educational destiny** of his students. Throughout my experience of working with Stephen the child still is at the **heart** of everything he does.'*

**Shirley Young**  
Vice-Principal, Clacton Coastal Academy