



South Farnham School

The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

Member of the South Farnham Educational Trust

✉ Infants: School Lane, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 3PE
☎ 01252 716398, infants.southfarnham@sfet.org.uk
✉ Juniors: Menin Way, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8DY
☎ 01252 716155, info.southfarnham@sfet.org.uk
🌐 www.southfarnhamschool.org

Headteacher: **Miss Esther Whitbourn**

6th February 2024

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Trustees and Governors,

Our South Farnham Educational Trust family of schools, Teaching School Hub and SCITT are honoured to have hosted a distinguished visit by the Secretary of State for Education, The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, on 1st February 2024. As a member of our Trust community, I hope that you will share our pride in the contributions we are making to the national agenda.

The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan's visit preceded the Secretary of State's formal announcement of the new Teacher Degree Apprenticeship (TDA) – an exciting employment route to Qualified Teacher Status combining school-based training and a university-led degree. Other distinguished guests included The Rt Hon Dame Maria Miller, Member of Parliament for Basingstoke, and Jennifer Coupland, CEO at the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. South Farnham Educational Trust are the chairs of the Trailblazer Group responsible for developing the new undergraduate Teacher Degree Apprenticeship as well as the highly successful Postgraduate Teacher Apprenticeship.



The visit took place at the Trust's lead secondary school, Brighton Hill Community School in Basingstoke, where SFET is expanding its outstanding initial teacher training provision for primary and secondary trainees across the region through the highly successful South Farnham SCITT. With a strong emphasis on teacher training and development, South Farnham SCITT is a leading institution, both locally and nationally, with an unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest standards of training, continuous improvement and the delivery of impactful and relevant education practices. This follows [South Farnham SCITT's recent Ofsted inspection](#), where it was graded outstanding in all areas for the second time, affirming its position as a leader in providing exceptional primary and secondary teacher training programmes.



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The Secretary of State, Gillian Keegan, had conversations with teachers and school leaders about the importance of teacher recruitment and the benefits of the TDA. She spoke enthusiastically with current postgraduate apprentice teachers as well as to teaching assistants interested in pursuing the new Teacher Degree Apprenticeship.



The Secretary of State's insights and observations will undoubtedly contribute to the ongoing dialogue on improving teacher training and education across the country. South Farnham Educational Trust and Brighton Hill Community School look forward to building on the momentum generated by this visit and continuing their mission to provide outstanding ITT, leading to an exceptional and enriching educational experience for all students across the region.

For more information and photographs, please visit our Trust website ([click here](https://www.southfarnhameducationaltrust.org.uk)).

Remember, if you know someone who is interested in training to become a primary or secondary teacher, do not hesitate to get in touch with one of our schools, the trust or SCITT team (contact 01252 717408 or email scitt@sfet.org.uk).

Very best regards,

Sir Andrew Carter, KBE



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