

Pupil Premium Select Committee

Biography

Deby Day, Headteacher, Guston C of E Primary School, Dover

Deby Day has been Headteacher of Guston Church of England Primary School since 2008. The school is located next to the (now demolished) Connaught Barracks in Dover. The Service Families Accommodation (SFA) that was erected when the Barracks were built is now a mix of SFAs serving at Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone and privately owned accommodation, therefore about half of the school's student population consists of Service children.

Deby has spoken at a range of meetings and conferences about supporting the needs of Services families in areas such as bereavement, emotional wellbeing, pupil voice, and English as an additional language. In February 2017 the Royal Gurkha Rifles regiment financed a trip to Brunei with Angela Maxted, Headteacher of Cheriton School in Folkestone. The trip enabled them to forge links with the families coming to the UK. In recent years Deby has also worked with Angela and Kent County Council staff to develop the Kent Service Children's Conference, which has been a really interesting experience.

Deby feels that it is a real privilege serving such a unique community and working in a school that really supports the wellbeing of all its pupils and their families.

Angela Maxted, Headteacher, Cheriton Primary School, Folkestone

Since 2006 Angela Maxted has been Headteacher of Cheriton Primary School, which is close to Shorncliffe Garrison in Folkestone. Prior to that Angela was Deputy Headteacher and Interim Headteacher of a school close to Howe Barracks in Canterbury; over the last 20 years she has been able to work with the Princess of Wales, the Royal Irish, the 5 Scots and the Royal Gurkha Rifles regiments.

In 2011 Angela financed her own trip to Brunei to visit the British garrison and children there. This experience was repeated this year, when the Royal Gurkha Rifles regiment financed the visit for Angela and Deby Day – the Headteacher of Guston Primary School - to Brunei. As a garrison that can deploy at quite short notice there are constant pressures of dealing with separation and potential loss for service children in her school.

Currently Angela is also a member of the National Executive Committee for "Service Children in State Schools". In recent years she has worked with Deby Day and Kent County Council staff to develop the Kent Service Children's Conference, which has been very rewarding.

Working with service children and their families has many challenges but huge rewards, and Angela feels very lucky that families entrust their children into the care of staff at Cheriton.