

*Lucy Heller, Managing Director*

Lucy joined ARK from TSL Education, a subsidiary of News International, where she was Joint Managing Director. Her previous roles include General Manager of The Observer and Executive Chairman at Verso, a trade and academic publisher. She has worked for many years with a number of charitable and voluntary organizations including the Marshall Commission, Community Links and the Bush Theatre.

*Ian Comfort, Chief Operating Officer*

Ian joined ARK from the City of London where he was Chief Education Officer. Previously, he was Director of Community Education for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and has extensive experience in education. He is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Personnel Development and a Barrister of the Inner Temple. He is a member of the national advisory committee/chair of the London Regional committee of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. He was previously a trustee of the Cass Foundation and member of the London committee of the Prince's Trust. He is on the Board of the Centre for Young Musicians, who form the London School Symphony Orchestra.

*Jay Altman, Director of Education*

Jay joined ARK from the New Orleans Charter Middle School of which he was cofounder and Principal. It is an open-admissions school that promotes academic achievement and healthy social and emotional development. Prior to that he was a founder and Assistant Director of the James Lewis Extension School in New Orleans. He has worked for several years as a teacher and has sat on the Board of, and consulted with, schools and non-profit educational organisations.

*Liz Rayment-Pickard, Deputy Director of Education*

Liz has many years experience in education and joined ARK from her position as headteacher of Oxford Gardens Primary School in Ladbroke Grove and acting head teacher of Maxilla Nursery School. She is also an Ofsted inspector and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

*Sir Michael Wilshaw, Chief Education Adviser*

Michael has been a Head teacher for 22 years in inner London secondary schools. From 1985-2003 he was head of St Bonaventures school in the London Borough of Newham. This 1300 boys comprehensive school is one of the most improved schools in the country and was one of the first specialist schools in the country with beacon status. St Bonaventures also gained a reputation for raising attainment levels of Afro-Caribbean boys and was mentioned in the Ofsted report on this issue in 2001. Michael has supported a number of schools in special measures and in 2003 was appointed as the first Principal of Mossbourne City Academy in Hackney on the site of the failed Hackney Downs School. Ofsted described Mossbourne as outstanding in its inspection report of 2006.

*Amanda Spielman, Research and Development Director*

Amanda has worked as an educational consultant since completing an MA in Comparative Education at the Institute of Education. A chartered accountant, she has a background in finance and corporate strategy, having worked for Nomura International, Mercer Management Consulting and Kleinwort Benson. She is a director of the Wales

Millennium Centre and a trustee of Pilotlight.

*Anne Barcellos, Finance Director*

Anne has considerable senior level experience in Education Finance with local authorities. Anne is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

*Neil Heyes, ICT Director*

Neil joined ARK after working for two years as an ICT consultant for the Thomas Deacon Academy in Peterborough. Previously, he spent 12 years with Reuters in a variety of roles from Network Manager to Equities Product Manager and six years as an IT consultant.

*John Walker, HR Director*

John has considerable experience in personnel management with local authorities, particularly within education. He holds a Post Graduate diploma in Personnel Management and is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Personnel and Development.

*Alexia di Marco, Recruitment Manager*

Alexia graduated with a first class BA (hons) degree in Anthropology from the University of Durham. After spending two years teaching at Bethnal Green Technology College, she is now a Teach First ambassador.

*Katie Oliver, Project Manager*

Katie joined ARK after completing an MSc in International Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. Her previous work experience includes an internship with Karen Buck MP and tutoring at secondary level.

*Claire Gould, Project Administrator*

Claire joined ARK from the World Travel & Tourism Council, where she was Membership Manager. Prior to WTTC, she worked as Programme Manager for the PhD Programme at London Business School and for the MBA Programmes at the University of Bath. Claire holds a degree in American Studies from the University of Birmingham.

*Angela Knee, HR Adviser*

Angela joined the HR Team in April 2007 as HR Adviser to help work on the ongoing HR projects. Angela has been working as a HR Advisor for several years now in various organisations including Charities and NHS. Angela is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Personnel and Development.

