

Dr Peter Kent, Hon DLitt

Tuesday 17 January 2023, 3pm

Chancellor

Our honorary graduand this afternoon has, for many years, provided outstanding leadership for secondary school heads regionally and nationally. I am delighted to introduce DR PETER KENT.

Peter has a BA in English Literature from Sheffield, and a PGCE from St Katharine's College, Liverpool; an MA in English and Drama from Salford; and an MBA in Educational Leadership from Leicester. He also holds a National Qualification for Headship and is a Doctor of Education – a professional doctorate earned at the University of Leicester while he was in post at Lawrence Sheriff School in Rugby.

Peter was Headteacher of Lawrence Sheriff School – a secondary school with around 1,000 pupils – for 22 years, until his retirement in 2021. The school was designated by the Department for Education as the lead school for the Griffin Alliance Teaching School Hub which represents a group of schools drawn from a wide range of different contexts. In a more recent designation, it is now known as the Coventry and Central Warwickshire Teaching School Hub.

Peter was the Executive Headteacher of the schools in this Hub, which was accountable to the DfE for the implementation of Initial

Teacher Training; the Early Career Framework for Teachers; and National Professional Qualifications for Teachers and Leaders. This role involved collaboration with schools and school leaders across the region in a range of educational settings. He provided outstanding leadership, amassing a wealth of school improvement experience.

As a result, he was awarded the prestigious status of National Leader of Education, requiring him to work as an advisor on school improvement across a specially designated group of schools. He was the West Midlands lead for the National College of School Leadership and was the Independent Chair of the Warwickshire Education Challenge Board – a strategic board tasked with monitoring school improvement in the region.

This invaluable work with schools and school leaders has brought Peter national recognition and involvement in the field of educational policy. He is an Ofsted inspector, working with the recent Ofsted Education Inspection Framework across the West Midlands. He has written guidance papers for the National College of School Leadership and has contributed to National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) modules – for example, on curriculum design. He was a member of the Ethical Leadership Commission, which in 2019 produced a Framework for Ethical Leadership now embedded across the school and college system. His educational expertise positioned him to be appointed President of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) in 2014 – a national role leading the professional association for almost all secondary school leaders in the UK.

Peter has also been active on the international stage: in 2016, he was appointed to the Executive of the International Confederation of Principals – the professional association representing school leaders

worldwide – and at its Shanghai Convention in 2019 was elected the Confederation’s President.

Here at Warwick, Peter has been generous with his time and expertise. He has served on the Centre for Teacher Education’s Steering Group since 2018, contributing to its provision of high-quality teacher education. His expertise and knowledge has provided its senior team with guidance and a steer through key decisions and communications with school partners. He has provided feedback on the numerous work streams CTE has managed, and on communications with its PGCE trainees and across its 500+ partner schools during the Covid-19 pandemic and schools’ closure.

Peter is a Fellow of the National College for School Leadership, an Honorary member of the Association of School and College Leavers and an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching. Recently, Lawrence Sheriff School has named one of its newly established schoolhouses in honour of their former Headteacher.

Chancellor: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, PETER KENT.