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**THISTLEY HOUGH
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Len Tildsley BSc(Hons), PGCBA(Open), PGDMS:

I was born in Stoke-on-Trent in the 1960's and have lived within a few miles of the city centre my entire life. I have worked in post-16 education for over 30 years, though the majority of my career has been in Colleges outside Staffordshire. Since January 2013 I have been Principal of Buxton & Leek College, which is part of the University of Derby group.

Those involved in Further Education can often be critical of the schools sector, without understanding the pressures and challenges faced on a daily basis by those directly involved. If I can bring my personal knowledge and experience to support an academy that is near to where I live, then perhaps the academy will benefit in some small way and I will gain a better insight.

Although Thistley Hough has no sixth form, the aspirations of all school leavers should be to progress either to further education or to employment with training. If my experience of post-16 education or my role as Principal of a Staffordshire college, which is part of a large University, can help support the academy in realising this for more students, then I will consider my time as a governor as successful. As both a teacher and a practitioner, my expertise and subject area was computing and information technology and I hold both graduate and post-graduate qualifications in this area and in leadership and management. This knowledge and experience may also be of some value in supporting the academy to achieving its ambitions for its students.

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