

**Sir Peter Simpson OBE****Executive principal****Brooke Weston Partnership, Northamptonshire**

Sir Peter is the 'executive principal' who oversees the management of the three secondary schools in the group and the developing relationship between them. Each school is led by a principal committed to the success of their own school but also anxious to commit to the success of the others. The three schools are Brooke Weston, Corby Business Academy and Kettering Science Academy.

**What aspects of your work do you think contributed towards the award nomination?**

I think that the success of Brooke Weston CTC now Brooke Weston Academy gave me the foundation from which to take a very challenging local school and from it create the successful and popular Corby Business Academy. The most recent school to join our partnership, Kettering Science Academy is also now on the way to becoming a good school. Taken together these represent the key elements of my work in recent years.

**Which of your achievements are you most proud of?**

I am very proud of the three schools in the partnership and especially proud of the contribution that our two schools in Corby have made to the regeneration of the town. It is also worth saying that I believe that I have been very fortunate in the colleagues I have worked with throughout my career. I would single out in particular Gareth Newman the first principal of Brooke Weston who was, and still is, an outstanding educationalist and who taught me a very great deal.

**What makes a good school/college leader?**

There is no one model of a school leader, we all have different characters and personalities and will lead our schools in different ways. In many ways schools take on the character of the head. I do think that a clear focus on the core business of the school – that is what goes on in the classroom is key, together with a firm commitment to high expectations and high standards in every area of the work of the school. Putting students at the centre of every aspect of the school's work is essential and this commitment needs to be expressed in the way in which the business of the school is conducted.

**What advice would you pass on to those starting out on the leadership ladder?**

Always keep the students at the core of any decision making. I always ask myself 'would this – lesson, toilet, dinner or anything else - be good enough for my children?' If the answer is no then it isn't good enough for anyone else's children either and it's my job to make it right.