

WOOTTON LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

Jonathan Billington – appointed to the LGB by the MAT board

Jonathan Billington has a background in strategic financial management and was previously CEO of a sub-regional Economic Partnership. He has extensive knowledge of educational establishments having worked in FE and HE over a twelve- year period. He has also been a school governor within Bedfordshire Schools for the past twenty years, including being a former chair of governors at a local middle school. Jonathan plays a prominent role within the local community. Amongst other roles he is a trustee of a local charity in Cranfield and a keen member of the bell ringing society.

Judy Chandler – elected to the LGB by parents

A proud mother of two school-aged children and a local Wootton resident, Judy works as a Student Experience Manager at The Open University. She has over 10 years' teaching experience, eight in Secondary Schools including running a whole-school mentoring scheme. In addition to Secondary School teaching, Judy has taught in Further Education, working with post-16 students and also work-based learning as well as working as an Examiner for AQA and providing educational consultancy to a charity. Outside of work Judy enjoys family time, trying out different foods from around the world and spending time outdoors, including hiking.

David Clare – appointed to the LGB by the MAT board

David Clare, a qualified electrical engineer, worked as a senior manager for large utility companies including having operational and budget responsibility. David set up an electricity connections business that became a division of a Morgan Sindall Group plc. More recently, David set up an energy consultancy business which has advised blue chip clients on a number of major energy projects, including flagship projects such as the Olympic Park and Kings Cross regeneration. David also formed Utility Assets Ltd., focusing on low carbon heat networks. David has been a governor at lower and middle schools since 2000. In 2011, David joined Wootton Academy Trust; he is chair of Wootton Upper School's Local Governing Board.

Simon Frazer, Vice Principal (Teaching and Learning) – Associate Member

Simon Frazer joined Wootton Upper School as Vice Principal in June 2016. Prior to that he had been Vice Principal of a Northamptonshire Education Fellowship School. Earlier in his career he was Head of Science and also led a Sixth Form to an 'Outstanding' rating. He was educated at the University of Lancaster, where he studied Computer Aided Physics. Simon is married with two children. His interests include sports (he is a keen skier) and astronomy.

Simon's particular areas of interest are Teaching and Learning and using data to promote further improvement. He also has qualifications in Safeguarding Young People and has gained the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers.

Michael Gleeson, Executive Principal, Wootton Academy Trust, Ex Officio Governor

After graduating from Birmingham University Michael started his teaching career at Denbigh High School in Luton in 1984. Michael moved to Wootton Upper School as Head of Music in 1986 and subsequently held various posts in the school (and at Kimberley 16-19 STEM College, the Trust's other institution) including Head of Expressive Arts and later Deputy Head. Michael has been a director of Wootton Academy Trust since 2012 and from May 2014 Michael Executive Principal of Wootton Academy Trust.

Peter Haddon – appointed to the LGB by the MAT board

Peter is Chair of the MAT Board and an independent education consultant. Previously, Peter was for nine years, Headteacher of Holywell School, Cranfield. During that period of time Holywell re-established itself as a very popular school of choice in the area, raised educational standards for pupils and expanded its numbers significantly with further expansion currently continuing. Prior to joining Holywell, Peter worked for Bedfordshire County Council School Improvement Team, introducing the government's new School Improvement Partner (SIP) programme to Bedfordshire. From 2000 – 2005 Peter was Headteacher of St Bernard's Secondary School, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Outside of education Peter devotes much time to supporting CAFOD and other organizations including Wrest Park, Silsoe.

Esra Hassan – elected by support staff

Esra is a Pastoral Support Officer at Wootton Upper School, supporting pupils with pastoral needs and behaviour. Esra in 2018 was hired by the University of Roehampton as a guest lecturer for secondary schools and sixth forms, giving lectures on mental health research and routes to university and STEM. Esra is passionate about equal opportunities for all to access education and sun-seeking with her husband on school holidays! Esra's background includes a BSc (Hons) degree in Neuropsychology, an MSc in Clinical Neuroscience, specialising in molecular biology and a PhD internship in Cognitive Neuroscience specialising in memory research.

Sally Knight – elected to the LGB by parents

Sally worked in the private sector until July 2013 holding a post of Head of HR (Corporate HR Manager) for many years. As a Senior Leader, Sally has been fortunate enough to experience great coaching and in 2013 became a Leaders & Climate Trainer with Hay. From 2013 Sally moved to the public sector working for MKSP managing and supporting complex HR Employee Relations and under-performing schools, working closely with Milton Keynes Council. In 2016, Sally moved to a local Multi Academy Trust as its dedicated HR Manager. In her little spare time, Sally enjoys fitness, and family time.

Martin Kraus – appointed to the LGB by the MAT board

After A levels in Mathematics and Science and completing a BSc (Hons) in Mathematics at Manchester University Martin had a career in investment comprising two halves; the first as an investment manager, the second as a consultant to large pension funds. Retiring in 2016 having enjoyed my career immensely; Martin particularly enjoyed nurturing young talent - coaching and mentoring young colleagues, many of whom were very gifted. Towards the end of his career, Martin participated in senior promotion panels across the whole consulting business; he enjoyed watching progress through the ranks of people whom he had known as graduate trainees.

Martin took a year out, to train - with one of his three grown-up children - to climb Kilimanjaro. He is very interested and involved in diversity issues (particularly gender diversity) recognizing the notable challenges in encouraging young women to return from maternity leave and in getting young women to progress as quickly as their male colleagues. Martin joined Samaritans two years ago; he is also a listening volunteer for AgeUK. Martin is very concerned by the pressures which seem to weigh on our youngest generation. Martin is a gardening volunteer at Wrest Park. Martin has experience of school governance both in an inner-city school and also St James' school, Biddenham.

Joanna Loisel – elected to the LGB by parents

Joanna moved to Wootton eight years ago and is married with two children, Charlie in Year 9 and Sienna at Holywell School. Joanna originally trained as a solicitor and worked in litigation in the City and also in Criminal Law. After a career break, when her children came along, Joanna started working at Hadrian Academy, a large primary school in Dunstable in 2011. Joanna undertook the National Diploma in School Business Management at Hadrian Academy and for the last five years has been the School Business Manager and Chief Financial Officer. Joanna has experience of working with Governing Boards having been a Clerk to Governors for ten years.

Nick Martin – elected to the LGB by parents

Nick is a parent of a Year 10 pupil and has an older child at Kimberley College. Nick has taught for twenty-five years and is currently Principal of Samuel Whitbread Academy, a mixed rural comprehensive school, including a sixth form of 450. Prior to working at Samuel Whitbread Academy, Nick was Deputy Headteacher of Harlington Upper School, another large rural upper school. Nick has also worked for a Local Authority as a School Improvement Advisor. Nick also worked for the National College for School Leadership on a two-year project looking at how schools could work together in networks. This work was the foundation for the Multi Academy Trust government initiative.

Iain Metcalfe – appointed to the LGB by the MAT board

Iain has lived in Marston Moreteyne village for over thirty years. His three children all attended Wootton Upper School and from there went on to university and the careers they have now. Iain worked for Bedfordshire Police for twenty-seven years before retiring in 2003. During this career Iain has worked at a variety of locations throughout the county and in a number of roles and ranks, finishing up at Bedford in the management position of Superintendent. In retirement, Iain started up his own driving school and still continues to work as such. Naturally, many of Iain's pupils attend Wootton School or Kimberley College.

Carrie McMorn Vice Principal (Pastoral and Inclusion)– Associate Member

Carrie trained as a science teacher in 1994 working in two Buckinghamshire schools. She became Head of Year at Sir William Ramsay School and then Head of Science at Challney Boys School. Following impressive results the school became a Specialist Science College, and Carrie became Assistant Head in charge of Specialism. After a period as a consultant working with the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, Carrie returned to Challney Boys. She led the pastoral provision and safeguarding in the school and then led Inclusion within the school. Carrie joined Wootton Upper School in 2016. Carrie has qualifications in Safeguarding Young People and has gained the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers.

Rachel Palmer – elected to the LGB by parents

Rachel is a parent of a year 10 pupil and has been working in education for the last 12 years, initially as a Finance Officer in a maintained school in Bedford. In 2011 Rachel became a qualified Accounting Technician and in 2014 completed NVQ level 4 Certificate in School Business Management. In 2016 Rachel moved to a local Academy as the School Manager and in 2018 moved to a Multi Academy Trust as the Finance Manager. In her spare time, Rachel enjoys reading, fitness and time spent with family.

Elvis Rughoobee -elected to the LGB by teaching staff

Elvis Rughoobee is a Mathematics teacher and a Year Leader at Wootton Upper School. Prior to this Elvis worked in a number of other Bedfordshire Schools including Bedford Academy, Icknield High School, Luton and Mark Rutherford School. Outside of school, Elvis is an active member of the Bedfordshire's School's Golf Association, helping out with the logistics of running large tournaments. He has been a Parish Counsellor in his local community, has become a keen traveller in recent years and is a keen cyclist and cook! Elvis supports a local homeless charity on a monthly basis volunteering his time to feed clients from Bedford town and surrounding area.

Councillor John Wheeler – appointed to the LGB by the MAT board

John moved to Wootton over twenty years ago after a career working in advertising; he has continued doing consultancy work in advertising and the brewing industries. John In 2006, John joined the Parish Council, of which he is still a member. John joined Wootton Lower School Governors some eight years ago; he is currently the Co-Chair of Governors. John joined the LGB four years ago and is now Vice Chair of the Local Governing Board. John is the Bedford Borough Councillor for Wootton and sits on many of its committees. John is still very much involved in the community and now involves the school in some of these activities.

Tim Williams – appointed to the LGB by the MAT board

Tim Williams is Director of Tim Williams Consulting, a management consultancy specialising in Human Resources. Tim is a senior HR practitioner and leader with experience of working in the private and not-for-profit sectors. For over 30 years, Tim worked within blue-chip multi-national companies, most recently as Vice President for Human Resources for Pearson PLC's global Technology function and, before that as HR Director for companies and divisions within Pearson and Whitbread PLC. Tim is married with two grown up children and lives in Leighton Buzzard. He was previously a governor at Gilbert Inglefield Middle School for 10 years.

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