



Henshaws Specialist College Governance Board 2023

Sarah Greensides

Chair of Governors (Trustee Governor)

Sarah has a strong affiliation with Henshaws and the Specialist College, as both her Grandfather and her Mother were Chair of Trustees for many years; as such Henshaws has always been part of her life with memories of visiting the college as a child.

Sarah has thirty years' experience in Education; the last sixteen as a Head Teacher in the primary sector with a Children's Centre on site. Sarah has worked in schools with high levels of need both in terms of special educational needs and social deprivation. Sarah has a special interest in safeguarding and has worked with her Local Authority developing provision for 'Looked After Children' and supporting the process of integrating family support into school settings; alongside this she has chaired the advisory board of a Children's Centre for numerous years. Student well-being and positive behaviour support have been a key part of her career; mentoring trainee teachers in this area. Sarah is now semi-retired and lives in Cheshire.



Chris Oates

Vice Chair of Governors (Trustee Governor)

Chris has extensive experience in the field of education having worked as a schoolteacher, university lecturer, National Training Organisation manager, college director, teacher trainer and independent education consultant.

In addition, she was Chair of the Board of Governors of her local primary school. Now retired, she works on a voluntary basis for the British Educational Leadership, Management and Administration Society. She also mentors autistic adults. Chris is married with two sons, the eldest of which is on the autistic spectrum.



David Frankland

Clerk of Governors

David has extensive experience over many years of working in the education sector, as both a Governor, and as a Governance Manager, Clerk to Governors in pre and post 16 environment. Throughout the major part of his commercial career, he has worked predominantly in the IT sector, supporting both regional and national companies with their online business development and presence, their data management, email provision, and security.

David continues to take an active interest in national education policy, the management and administration of Charitable Trusts, and best practice across school Governance, in the knowledge that the importance and significance of outstanding governance and leadership across our education system has never been greater.



Lynda Trueman

College Governor

Lynda is an independent Education Consultant working with Primary schools and MATs across the country to support them in particular aspects of school improvement, such as leadership; curriculum development; and pedagogy. Her expertise in curriculum and pedagogy was developed through her 40 years in teaching and leadership roles in schools and Local Authorities, including Headteacher of a Primary school with specialist support for hearing impairment, visual impairment and Autism; LA Advisor; School Inspector; Head of Salford LA's School Improvement Partnership; and Head of Salford LA's Early Years and Childcare Service. In her LA roles Lynda earned a strong reputation for her contribution to LA wide improvements in overall pupil achievement and closing the attainment gap and in improved inspection outcomes. In her last LA role Lynda's strategic remit extended to LA provision for babies and young children in need of multi agency support such as the Portage Service; Early Support; Area SENCOs; and the Ethnic Minority and Travellers Service.



Paula Middlebrook

College Governor

Paula is a Registered Nurse with 30 years experience in hospital care specialising in cancer and end of life care, and the last 4 years as a commissioning nurse responsible for quality assurance of locally commissioned health services. This role includes the commissioning of health services for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. In addition to this role Paula is passionate about the approach to how we provide compassionate and personalised care, and ensure we equally prioritise the wellbeing of our staff.

In her personal life, Paula has one grown up son and a very busy spaniel who keeps her busy walking in the countryside !



Peter Houten

College Governor

Peter has 35 years' experience working in education and training policy and delivery (both pre and post 16) at local, regional and national level within the Department for Education (DfE). In the later part of his career, Peter spent a brief period as the Department's Finance Director before moving on to lead at national level on aspects of the Academies programme. As well as being a member of the College Governance Committee for the college, Peter is also a Trustee of the Priory Federation of Academies Trust (PFAT) which runs a number of schools in Lincolnshire. Peter also chairs PFAT's Audit Committee.





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Katy Hartley

Teaching Staff Governor

Katy is an instructor at the college and has over 11 years' experience working within the organization. Katy began her Henshaws journey working within the care team. Prior to this Katy supported young people for 7 years in supported living and residential settings and has worked closely with music, art and horse riding therapists delivering care, therapy and education to young people with disabilities and mental health.

On completion of studies in Humanities and Social Sciences Katy transferred skills, gaining further teaching qualifications and experience of teaching in the classroom. Katy has first-hand experience of the challenges students face when accessing education with a disability, therefore is a strong advocate for promoting independence, diversity, inclusion and empowering individuals to reach their true potential.



Gill Davidson

College Governor

Starting her career in legal private practice, Gill has spent over 20 years in the financial services sector. Gill brings considerable legal and risk management credentials as well as operational leadership experience to the College Governing Body. She is now supporting different businesses as a non-executive director or board adviser. Throughout her working life, Gill has held a range of community based roles, including serving as an Independent Director of Craven Housing (now part of Yorkshire Housing) and as a governor of Craven FE College.

Gill, who lives near Skipton, is married and has two grown up children, a cat and a very slow tortoise! Outside work, Gill holds a number of volunteer roles, including supporting her local foodbank and providing business mentoring. In addition, she enjoys exploring the countryside as a keen walker and cyclist (with the benefit of an e-bike to help up the hills)!



Lee Dart

Non-teaching Staff Governor

Lee is a Physiotherapist at the college and has worked at Henshaws for nearly 10 years. He was previously a governor at a primary school, and finished his term there so he could help at Henshaws. Lee loves working at the College and the work that it does to better the students lives. Lee looks forward to seeing the college grow and develop and improve the lives of as many young people as possible.

