



Members and Trustees

Members

Jacqui Canton (Chair)

Jacqui is Principal of Abingdon and Witney College and has significant expertise in education governance, alongside her leadership of an outstanding post-16 provider.

Terry Stock

Terry is a retired CEO of Vale of White Horse District Council and formerly Oxfordshire County Council; experienced in special needs school and academy governance and as chair and director of several trusts.

Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Sam is a county and district councillor with an extensive background in Strategic commissioning, contract management and budget management of services for adults, young people and children with substance misuse issues or who are in families with this issue.

Gabby Barody

Gabby is currently Abingdon Deputy Mayor and Town Councillor for Northcourt ward; and providing a community and youth voice/ wellbeing perspective.

Becky Dougall

Rebecca is an experienced teacher and Headmistress of St Helen and St Katharine School, Abingdon, previously Head at The Royal High School, Bath and Deputy Head at Oxford High School. She has a deep understanding of education metrics, parental involvement in schools and branding, bringing all-through school perspective and education leadership. Becky brings an educational background to the Members group.

Board of Trustees

Jonathan Hopkins (Chair)

Jonathan has long-established networks across education and public affairs on children, young people and families; previously Principal Officer of a teaching union and board director of communications companies; with over 15 years of school and academy governance and the National College leadership development programme, and Oxfordshire County Council's Schools Organisation and Admissions stakeholder group.

Lynn Fathers

Lynn is the Chair of the Compliance Committee and lead Safeguarding Trustee on the Board. Lynn has over 20 years' experience in school governance in the academy and maintained school sectors. A qualified teacher, School Business Manager and accredited clerk Lynn worked previously in full time and part time teaching and administrative roles before serving in a variety of roles with Oxfordshire County Council and working as a consultant following retirement, developing and providing governing body training and governance reviews.

Michael Nga

Michael has a long and varied legal career, having qualified in both England and Wales, Malaysia and New South Wales, Australia. He is presently the Head of Legal for UK and Ireland at BMC Software Ltd (since 2016) and has also been the senior legal advisor at Oxford University Press, as well as working as a solicitor in the UK and Malaysia.

James Browning

James has strong business and leadership skills, and currently is COO of AET, a large multi-academy trust. He brings an in depth understanding of how to leverage resources to ensure teachers and school staff can have the biggest positive impact for their pupils.

Jo Milsom

Jo is Vice Principal at Abingdon and Witney College. After an early career in the financial sector, she began working in the childcare and early years sector initially but moved through the age groups until starting in the Further Education (FE) sector more than 10 years ago. Jo has experience and expertise in Student Services, Learner Support and Foundation Learning, safeguarding and SEND.

Dr Grace Clifton

Grace is currently Senior Lecturer in Education (PGCE Wales) with the Open University and brings this expertise to the Trust as well as her recent experience as a local Abingdon Town Councillor. She has served as a primary governor in a local church school.

Heather Darcy

Heather is an experienced teacher, initially starting as one of the first TeachFirst trainees, and now is Head of sixth Form at St Helen's and St Katherine's School in Abingdon. She brings her professional scrutiny and analytical skills to the Trust Board having worked in a wide range of schools from very challenging maintained to the independent sector.

Dan Young

Dan brings expertise in marketing to the Board. As Senior Brand manager with Miele GB, Dan brings a perspective that is commercially driven, with experience in marketing, team leadership, commercial management, and propositions development across industries including cyber security, technology.

Terry Watts

An effective, high integrity leader with extensive board level (including CEO) experience in building businesses, from start-up to SME and multinational, multisite businesses in the private and not for profit sector. Terry has a track record of delivering transformational change at pace by winning the trust and support of people at all levels in the team/board. Driven by the desire to make a sustained and valuable impact and create commercially sustainable, growing organisations.

Ian Behling

Ian returns as a trustee from January 2024; after a year since leaving the board due to starting a new job. Ian will provide primary governance experience, is former long serving chair of Dunmore Primary and the lead governor for primaries in the Abingdon Partnership of Schools. Ian is also link trustee on Net Zero, linking with his professional work.

Barry Jones

Barry as former chair of Rush Common Preschool, his appointment strengthens preschool and primary experience on the board. With his commercial and IT sector experience and skills, he adds to the corporate expertise of the Board.

Associate Trustee (sits on the Compliance committee)

Julian Thrussell

Julian provides advice and expertise in security and business continuity standards.

Governance Professional**Rob Barron**

Rob was previously a teacher of English and Economics and prior to entering education was a programme manager for Prudential Assurance plc with experience of business change management and IT projects. He acts also as clerk to the local academy boards of Fitzharrys and John Mason School.

Deputy Governance Professional**Debbie Brooks**

As a former primary phase teacher, and with experience in both the independent and state education sectors, Debbie brings her knowledge of governance to the role of clerk to Rush Common School. She also undertakes regular training to ensure that exclusion and other appeal panels are well advised in the Trust.