

## School Governor Profiles

### **John Boulter – Chair of Governors and Co-opted Governor**

John first joined the governing body as a parent governor in 2013 – the year his daughter Emma moved on to Freman College and his son Yann joined in Year 5. He took over as Chair of Governors, at short notice in November 2015.

John has worked for Hertfordshire County Council since 1992. His career at HCC has seen him in a number of roles taking on increasing management responsibility over the years. He is now part of the senior management team in the Community Protection Directorate which covers the Fire Service, Trading Standards and Resilience, where he leads on finance, policy and performance.

John's main aim is to continue to strengthen the Governing Body, support the Head and the school community in its efforts to respond to the challenges which covid has presented and further develop our relationship with Freman College as we move towards establishing a Multi Academy Trust.

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### **Janeane Hails – Vice Chair of Governors and Foundation Governor**

Janeane lives in Buntingford with her family. She has been a middle school governor for over 12 years and previously a parent governor at Edwinstree. She is Vice Chair of Governors and sits on the resources committee.

Janeane is a specialist nurse at Addenbrookes hospital and a member of St Peter's Church in Buntingford. She has extensive experience as a school governor working on pupil premium, safeguarding, pupil voice and finance. She also supports the school with SIAMs which focuses on how the school's Christian vision enables pupils and adults to flourish.

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### **Jo Gant – Headteacher**

Jo is headteacher of Edwinstree School, having taken up the role as headteacher in 2016.

Jo was lucky enough to choose a profession she adores and was determined from the outset to work in challenging schools. Jo has spent 20 years as a Senior Leader, specialising in improvement and 15 years as a Head.

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### **Marcus Cooper – Associate Member**

Marcus is a member of the curriculum committee and supports the school with its Christian ethos.

Marcus is currently the Assistant Diocesan Director of Education for the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. In his role, Marcus works in partnership with schools in developing their Christian distinctiveness, leads training for schools and governors, supports schools in their self-evaluation, and works closely with local authorities on school reviews. He was previously the Senior Education Manager for Hertfordshire overseeing school standards and the effective delivery of education across the authority.

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### **Mick Furness – Chair of Resources Committee and Co-opted Governor**

Mick has lived in Buntingford since 2013. He is married to an ex-teacher, has 10 grandchildren and has always had a special interest in education and the development of our young citizens. Mick became a school governor in 2016 and is a Chair of the resources committee.

Mick is strongly committed to the life and wellbeing of all who live in the town and surrounding areas and became a town councillor in 2020. He retired as a Prison Governor from HM Prison Service in 2008, having served for 35 years where he was responsible for over 800 prisoners and the staff and wider teams who managed them. Additionally, Mick is a Strategic Leader of Governance for Herts for Learning (HFL) working with other boards to assist them when required.

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### **Elaine Forster – Foundation Governor**

Elaine has had a long association with Edwinstree of over 30 years as a teacher. She joined the governing body in December 2019. She is a member of the curriculum committee and is the link governor for 'Looked After Children' in the school and Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND).

Elaine was the SENCO lead at Edwinstree from 2001 up until her retirement in 2018. Since retiring Elaine has now been appointed as a Foundation governor by the Diocesan Board of Education from December 2019. She has a focussed interest in the Christian Ethos of the school and a particular interest in Special needs and the wellbeing of both pupils and staff.

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### **Tracy Harper – Parent Governor**

Tracy and her family moved to Buntingford in 2018. Her daughter attends Edwinstree and she joined the governing body in September 2021. She is a member of the curriculum committee and is the link governor for Mental Health and Well-Being.

Tracy is an experience teacher of over 15 years, and has taught in early years, primary, SEND and secondary sectors. She has a love of theatre and alongside her role as Head of PSHE is also studying an MA in Theatre at the Guildford School of Acting. Tracy is passionate about creative and diverse curriculums that engage learners, as well as the mental health and well-being of our young people and teaching staff. She is looking forward to supporting the school in nurturing students into the very best that they can be, while also offering a voice for parents and carers of the school.

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### **Amy Kelly – Staff Governor**

Amy is Head of Year 5 and Head of RE and has worked with all year groups at Edwinstree. She became a staff governor in 2022 and sits on the curriculum committee.

Amy has worked at Edwinstree for nearly a decade and has seen the school go through many changes and weather some real storms. She loves working with the pupils pastorally, *"there is nothing better than knowing you have made a positive difference in a young person's life. Despite the job title of 'teacher' I believe we have so much to learn from our pupils, they both educate and inspire me daily"*.

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### **Helen Loughran – Associate Member**

Helen is headteacher of Freman College and also an associate Governor of Ralph Sadleir Middle School.

Given that pupils from Edwinstree move onto Freman in Yr9, it is very important for Helen to be closely involved in working with the school and its governance. Our two schools are committed to providing pupils with a really excellent and enjoyable education which provides them with the best possible qualifications and future opportunities. To do this, we work closely together to make sure that our curriculum prepares pupils for the next stage of their education and that we have strong pastoral links to support pupils as they move from one school to the next.

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### **Amy Solder – Chair of Curriculum Committee and Parent Governor**

Amy moved back to the local area with her young family in 2019. Her two children attend Anstey First School, a feeder school into Edwinstree. She joined the governing body in November 2019, is chair of the curriculum committee and link governor for pupil premium and sports premium.

Amy is a senior leader within the charity sector and believes passionately that local schools should be outstanding places of learning and enjoyment for pupils and not exam factories.

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### **Catherine Tallis - Parent Governor**

Catherine has lived in Buntingford for over ten years and her two children attend Edwinstree. She joined the governing body in November 2022 and is a member of the resources committee.

Catherine is Director of Business Services at HFL Education, and oversees the provision and evolution of Governance, Finance, HR, Business and Technology support and services to schools across Hertfordshire and beyond. As a parent I am an advocate for SEND and identifying and addressing invisible barriers that children and young people with SEND face. I have first-hand experience how the school seeks to support and nurture each and every pupil to find their wonderful

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### **Kirsty Wainwright - Foundation Governor**

Kirsty is the Priest in charge of the United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill, three Church of England churches. She and her family moved to Buntingford in 2022 she became a foundation governor at the same time. She is a member of the curriculum committee.

Kirsty is regularly involved in Collective Worship for the whole school and loves developing faith and spirituality for everyday living. She is also part of the SIAMs group (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) aiming to develop a practical Christian ethos that is part of all school life. Kirsty is passionate about the outdoors and especially gardening and loves walking around Buntingford with their Labrador.

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### **Frazer Willett - Vice Chair of Resources Committee and parent governor**

Frazer joined the Governing Body as a parent governor in 2021. He is vice chairman of the Resources Committee and is the link governor for GDPR. He has got two children at Edwinstree, another due to join in two years and his eldest having passed through, is now at Freman College

Frazer retired from the police service in 2018. A lifelong swimmer, he now trains for fitness and enjoyment rather than competitive success and is the treasurer of the National Police Lifesaving Committee. He became a school governor in the hope that his skills and experience will help to ensure that the school has a robust structure with which to support the teaching staff in delivering the best for the students.

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### **Claire Francis – Foundation Governor**

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### **Linda Lowther – Parent Governor**

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### **Miranda Trenchard - Clerk**

Miranda first became interested in school education when she became a school governor in 2010 at the local primary where she lives only six miles from Buntingford. Since then, Miranda has chaired a number of committees before becoming their Chair of Governors in 2015 which still continues.

Miranda worked in the public sector for 41 years, most recently in HR for Hertfordshire, retiring in 2017. Looking to use her experience as chair of governors, more broadly she became a clerk to school governing bodies. At the moment, she provides this service for two schools. This includes Edwinstree in Buntingford which is where she moved to from Newcastle upon Tyne when she and her husband came south in 1989.

Clerking for schools is a really rewarding job which continued throughout lockdown and involves providing advice and support to the Chair of governors, the Head teacher and other governors on governance as well as drafting agendas and minutes for their governor meetings.