

## **School Governor Profiles 2025-26**

### **John Boulter – Chair of Governors**

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.

### **Janeane Hails – Vice Chair of Governors**

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, sits on the Resources committee and is the link governor for safeguarding.

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.

### **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.

### **Mick Furness**

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.

### **Claire Francis**

Claire moved to Standon from Devon eleven years ago to be nearer family and loves living in this area. Claire became a school governor in 2023, she is now a member of the Resources committee, having previously been on Curriculum, and is the link governor for training.

Claire worked in politics for many years for a Member of Parliament – a job which entails dealing with the varied issues constituents draw to their MPs. Through this experience, she feels that she is able to deal competently and sympathetically with the many issues the head teacher and her staff face in today's academic world. In the past she served as a non-executive director of a health authority, chairman of a children's choir and presently volunteers for the Humanimal Trust.

*"I want to be involved in my community and, by being a Governor of Edinstree, I hope that I can contribute and play my part. I am keen to ensure that students are able to learn in a safe and caring environment."*

### **Tracey Harper**

Tracey and her family moved to Buntingford in 2018, and she joined the Governing Body in 2021. Her twin daughters currently attend Edinstree, and her eldest daughter is now at Freman College. She is a member of the curriculum committee and is the link governor for Mental Health and Well-Being.

Tracey is currently a Wellbeing and Lead RSHE/PSHE Adviser for HFL Education, supporting school leaders, their teams, and Governors/Trustees across Hertfordshire and beyond. Prior to this Tracey was an experienced leader and teacher, with over 20 years' experience in the education sector having taught in early years, primary, SEND and secondary sectors.

"I'm 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."

### **Amy Kelly – Staff Governor**

Amy is Head of Year 5, Transition and Head of RE and has worked with all year groups at Edinstree. She is also now an Edinstree parent so experiencing both sides! She became a staff governor in 2022 and sits on the Curriculum committee.

Amy has worked at Edinstree 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".

### **Linda Lowther**

Linda joined the governing body in 2023. She is a member of the Curriculum committee and link governor for Leadership and Management.

After a 40 year varied and fulfilling career within education Linda is keen to share and utilise her wide range of skills and experiences. A previous Senior Leader, National Adviser, Executive Coach, Consultant and Teacher Trainer who has supported Trainee Teachers and their Mentors both within Universities and Schools. Having worked in both Middle and Secondary schools she has focused extensively on the local community encouraging and welcoming families to become involved within all aspects of school life. Additionally, she has successfully established restorative justice, coaching and research based professional development to support great learning opportunities improving student opportunities and outcomes. Born in Herts, having lived and taught locally she is passionate about developing and sharing her love of learning within the Edinstree school community.

## **Amy Solder**

Amy moved back to the local area with her family in 2019. 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.

## **Kirsty Wainwright – Foundation Governor**

Kirsty is Rector of the United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill, three Church of England churches. She and her family moved to Buntingford in 2022 and became a school governor at the same time. She is a member of the Curriculum committee and link governor for SIAMS.

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.

## **Nick Parker**

Nick became a governor at Edwinstree in November 2024 because he passionately believes that every child deserves a first-class education in a safe and friendly environment, giving each and every child the best possible opportunities and outcomes in life.

For over 20 years, Nick has volunteered in the local community as an on-call firefighter and watch commander, running a local fire station, attending emergencies, and managing a diverse team of firefighters. Alongside this, he has built a successful career in the private sector as a senior manager for a large telecommunications company, where he manages people, budgets, and large-scale projects.

Nick currently serves as Vice Chair of the Resource Committee at Edwinstree and is the Lead Governor for School Health and Safety. His focus is on ensuring strong governance, accountability, and continuous improvement for the benefit of all pupils in the school.

## **Tricia Lucas-Clarke**

Tricia became a governor at Edwinstree in late September 2025, joining the Curriculum committee. She has lived in Buntingford for nearly 24 years and is a parent of former Edwinstree pupils, Will who is now a Tree Surgeon and Benji who is studying Fine Art Photography at UA - Camberwell School of Art.

Tricia is the Inclusion Lead for Global Early Talent Recruitment at GSK, driving fairness, opportunity and belonging across candidate programmes. She champions young talent as GSK UK STEM Ambassador Lead and co-leads Embrace, GSK's ERG for ethnically diverse colleagues and externally is a STEMettes workshop lead.

A speaker on inclusion, Tricia was selected as a UN Women's participant for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), serves on the Institute for Student Employers' (ISE) recruitment conference committee and previously served as a trustee for the 93 Percent Club, supporting social mobility for university students.

### **Nicola Harker**

Nicola moved with her family to the area in August 2024 and her 10 year old daughter started at Edwinstree in March 2025. She is mum to two other girls 12 and 2. Nicola became a governor at Edwinstree in late November 2025, joining the Curriculum Committee.

Nicola has extensive experience and knowledge in SEND needs with her eldest child attending Amwell View School and specialist college along with hands on experience at home and volunteering roles throughout the years. A role she would like for parents and the school to know that there's a parent with such experience on the governing board who has - 'been there, doing it, still doing it with every T-shirt going'.

*"I look forward to being a part of curriculum team working together to develop, obtain and create the best outcomes for the students and school community".*

### **Nichola Lomax**

Nichola is an Associate Director with 15+ years in biomedical chemistry and science education. As a STEM Ambassador, she has inspired students and educators, fostering curiosity and engagement in science and technology. With two children currently at Edwinstree, Nichola is deeply invested in the school's success and is actively involved in ESA events and fundraising.

Nichola was appointed a Parent Governor in late November 2025, joining the Resources committee, and brings practical leadership experience and a focus on linking learning to real-world skills.

*"As Learning and Development Lead in my department, I champion new technologies and AI tools and will leverage this experience and knowledge to improve outcomes for all children at Edwinstree".*

### **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 from which she stood down in 2025.

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 to just the one school, Edwinstree.