



26 November 2018

Dear Parent

LOCAL PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES - ELECTION

There are four vacancies for parent governors on the Local Governing Body of St John's Marlborough. Parent governors are elected from and by the parents of students attending the academy. The following have nominated themselves for election as parent governors

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| 1. Calvin Bailey | 6. Matthew Jones |
| 2. Rob Cross | 7. Jock MacKenzie |
| 3. George Fox | 8. Joanna McEvoy |
| 4. Rachael Foy | 9. Tamara Reay |
| 5. Ben Hodson | 10. Fiona Whiston |

As the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, an election is required.

Voting papers and an envelope for their return to the school by

22:00 on Tuesday 04 December 2018,

are enclosed.

Each parent or person with parental responsibility is entitled to one vote for each vacancy regardless of the number of children that parent may have at the school. No parent shall be entitled to cast more than one vote per candidate. You may vote for up to four candidates, voting for more will nullify your vote. Duplicate ballot papers cannot be issued.

Candidate profiles enclosed.

Yours faithfully

April Nobes

April Nobes
Clerk to the Local Governing Body and Returning Officer
april.nobes@excalibur.org.uk

Calvin Bailey MBE MEng (Hons) MA RAF

Current links to St John's Marlborough - Children in Y10 and Y12

Relevant knowledge, skills and experience

From 2011 to 2015, I was a Parent Governor at Rushall Church of England Voluntary Aided School in Rushall, Wiltshire. As a Governor, I also acted as both the Mathematics coordinator and the Physical Education coordinator. For my last 2 years, I was the Deputy Chair.

I was very engaged as a member of the governing body running a disciplinary procedure against a member of staff which ran for six months and as an active and engaged subject coordinator. As a mathematics coordinator, I assisted the staff lead introduce the new and challenging mathematics curriculum within the school. As a small school, Rushall had many challenges, particularly pupil numbers and funding, being a military parent, I was able to assist the school gain additional funding from various government and military schemes which helped the school to address funding challenges.

Why I would like to be a governor

St John's is not only a critical part of our children's existence, it is also a central pillar in the community of Marlborough. Playing a part in the assurance of our children's education and the maintenance of St John's as a respected local institution is something that I care very passionately about, and as I can give my time, I feel it is my civic duty to assist in ensuring that the school continues to be respected in the delivery of first class education to our children, but also so that the school remains central to the community.

Areas of school life I feel best placed to contribute to and how I would do this

I care deeply about improving the outcomes for all children and ensuring that every child has the support and opportunity to flourish whilst at school. To do this, I believe schools need assistance from competent, caring and engaged members of the public, to help the school develop its students. To do this, the support and assistance of the Headteacher is essential in ensuring that the Headteacher remains focused on the delivery of successful outcomes. However, this support also involves challenge, this is necessary to ensure that they are held to account on behalf of those who they employ, and those they educate. As a senior military officer, charged with assisting in the Strategic oversight of the Royal Air Force by the Ministry of Defence, this is something that I will be very able to assist the governing body to do.

Unlike businesses, successful outcomes in school are not always tangible or measurable against national benchmarks; making steps to deliver such results therefore, requires bold and visionary leadership. Being able to help and support the headteacher in making the case for measures which do not always appear to be popular or that does not realise instant results, is essential in supporting them deliver against the tasks set by the governing body. My experience as a governor on a very small voluntary aided school helped me to understand how important this is. This will be particularly important as St John's settles under new 'strategic' oversight, but also transitions with the arrival of a new headteacher.

Finally, I look forward to assisting the school develop in areas of STEM and I look forward to seeing how we can engage parents and the community to assist grow our children ready for the challenges of the modern work place. In this regard, I am passionate about increasing female engagement in STEM and ensuring that all children are not excluded from the future workplaces. Having participated in an outreach programme for the MOD to engage more females in government, I would like to see the school connect with similar government schemes, particularly the government's digital programmes.

Current links to St John's Marlborough – Child in Y9, child in Y6 applying for place

Relevant knowledge, skills and experience

As a human resources professional I am confident that I can bring many skills to this role, including possessing high levels of integrity and energy. I'm comfortable working in an environment where I can be open, honest, trusted and objective.

I also have experience of the following which as a governor I would contribute to ensure that St John's maintains and exceeds its current high standards:

- formulating policy based on best practice but also seeking to create the best outcomes for the future. This includes sound policy governance and adherence
- challenging the 'status quo' by understanding changes required to meet both the required standards and strategic agenda (3 to 5 year timeline) whilst learning from the past and present
- ensuring that governance is in keeping with the school's culture
- possessing an appetite to constantly learn new concepts through training
- conflict management – leading teams by being the challenger and being challenged by peers
- performance management – setting and evaluating relevant objectives, ensuring everyone is working toward a common goal
- data and analysis – the ability to ask the right questions to pupils, staff and parents, analyse the data and interpret, report and act on the results
- bringing an objective view having been a parent at my daughter's previous outstanding school

Why I would like to be a governor

- I want to make a major contribution to maintaining and exceeding the school's current high standards using my set of skills.
- I also want to be a critical ally to the head teacher and staff by ensuring that the best path is followed for the future of the school.
- I really want to be in a meaningful position where I can support and challenge the school through meetings with other governors utilizing my skills.

Areas of school life I feel best placed to contribute to and how I would do this

All of the areas outlined in Part 2, plus:

- Forging good working relationships with fellow governors, staff, parents and pupils.
- Creation of sound policies and code of conduct
- Having two daughters who can provide constant commentary and feedback on how the school is working
- Possessing high levels of trust, objectivity and leadership
- Future -focused, never complacent with the present

Current links to St John's Marlborough – Children in Y7 and Y9

Relevant knowledge, skills and experience

Before I discuss my professional work, my experience as a parent brings me to this application. I understand the needs of children, students and adolescents; in a world that is ever developing, I have a sensible perspective and understand the pressures that young people are under; academically and socially.

I have worked in the education field for many years, specifically SEN at Prior's Court residential special school. I currently have a specific role in management and have had experience in being a staff representative trustee/governor for over 9 years 2002-2011. I am a qualified teacher with an outstanding record in management, teaching and education.

I have excellent knowledge in safeguarding, HR and most importantly education (albeit not at a secondary level). I am a designated safeguarding lead in my school, I support performance management of all staff and have had to support in a wide range of disciplinaries both formal and informal. I have rewritten curriculum plans for many different age groups and know what makes an outstanding curriculum.

I have been an Integral part of the schools 'Outstanding' Ofsted outcome (Nov 2017), with specific accountability for Post 16 education, Accreditation, Health and Safety, Pupil Premium.

Why I would like to be a governor

Apart from my passion for education, I would like to become a governor for St Johns because I have been a parent of children at St John's since 2016.

The school has made a big impression on me in that time. I have attended events such as musical concerts and competitions, open and parent evenings and have come away really impressed with the overall feel of the school from the good behavior of the children, the talent in the school and the warm encouragement from the staff.

I feel the children are offered a huge range of opportunities at St John's. I would like to support the school more by being on the Parent Governor Board and it would be an honor to become more involved in St John's beyond just the capacity of being a parent. I would like to be a part of St John's going from strength to strength.

Areas of school life I feel best placed to contribute to and how I would do this

Education – Teacher/departmental interaction

Pastoral care – To hear the student voices and to share my expertise in the SEN area.

Health and Safety – IOSH trained in keeping schools safe working environments

Safeguarding – Extending my skills deployed in my current role

Current links to St John's Marlborough – Child in Y7

Relevant knowledge, skills and experience

I am passionate about providing excellent educational experiences for all and have built my career around this aspiration. I am a senior lecturer at the Royal Agricultural University where I am also the lead for educational enhancement activities. Prior to this I was the interim Head of Sixth Form for Wiltshire College having previously been an Area Manager for Land-based Studies, an Advanced Practitioner and a lecturer also at Wiltshire College. I hold two qualifications in post 16 education, and am about to start a Masters in online curriculum design and delivery. This has given me extensive experience in the practice and pedagogy of teaching, and whilst it is based in the context of post-16 education, many of the principles of outstanding educational experiences for students are common across the ages. In my various roles within education I have been instrumental in leading development and change, through identifying and setting clear targets for improvement, reporting practices against them, and communicating progress. I therefore have a strong skill set in communication, team working, problem solving and organization that I feel would be of benefit to St John's and the Excalibur partnership.

Why I would like to be a governor

As a parent of two girls (my younger daughter is in year 5 at Preshute Primary School) I, like all parents, have a keen interest in the educational provision in the area and would like the opportunity to use my skills and experience to represent parental interests in shaping our secondary provision to the advantage of our children. Becoming a parent governor also provides me with an opportunity to give something back to the community, and to work to actively support the school in its ambitions.

Areas of school life I feel best placed to contribute to and how I would do this

I believe I am well suited to providing a communication channel between the body of parents and the school. I am confident meeting new people, asking questions and disseminating information. I am able to quickly disassemble problems into key challenges and work within teams to tackle these, providing practical solutions that take account of multiple points of view. I have specific interest in online platforms, digital solutions to communication and collaborative working, and technology in the classroom and feel that I can contribute significantly to the strategic positioning within this area. I deal with students who have just left compulsory education, and there are many challenges that face them as they transition into higher education, such as the gaps in expectations, transferable skills, appreciation of higher education study and personal resilience. The future holds opportunities for our children that are genuinely exciting and inspiring, but preparation of students for a lifetime of learning (whether through higher education or through employment) has never been more important so that they can fully capitalize on those opportunities. These are all areas that I have some insight into and would love the opportunity to work with the school in addressing.

BEN HODSON

Current links to St John's Marlborough - Parent of children in Y7 and Y8. We moved to Aldbourne from Wokingham just before the eldest was born. We wanted our children to grow up in a village setting with a deep sense of community and strong links to the local primary school

Relevant knowledge, skills and experience

I graduated in 1990 and started work in electronics research for Phillips Electronics. In 1999, I started an IT consultancy business, which I ran until just after my second child was born in 2007. I am currently involved in the family company my father started in 1974 and a property company I run with my siblings.

This breadth of experience has given me a wide range of skills to bring to the role of parent governor. In particular project and financial management, strong IT management skills, problem solving and imaginative thinking.

After my children were born, my wife was keen to further her career. To this end, I became the main day-to-day carer for our children. This led to a new set of challenges but also fostered a new set of skills! I chaired the PSA and volunteered for their primary school for a number of years giving me an insight into how much passion and hard work goes into creating an "outstanding" school.

Why I would like to be a governor

Education is incredibly important. It is a gateway that enables children to start on an amazing journey. It opens minds, creates passions and leads to fulfilled, happy lives.

Put simply, running and continuously improving a great school is not easy, it takes dedication and hard work. I want to help, but I need your vote to do so. I would love your support

Areas of school life I feel best placed to contribute to and how I would do this

- Communication - Education works best as a partnership between home and school. I'd love to be involved in encouraging and developing this partnership by creating better communication between school, staff and home. Building relationships with clients, parents and local communities is something I have always believed in deeply.
- External links – Developing great links to the outside world can be so useful. Exchange visits, work experience, the list goes on. For example, I'd love to help bring in speakers to challenge student's perceptions. Female engineers, male nurses, show them where education can take them.
- Environment and Sustainability – Are there steps St. John's could take to reduce its footprint? How can the students help and get involved?
- Listening – It comes back to communication. It's got to be two way. It's easy for me to write about what I would like to focus on, but listening to all those involved with this outstanding school is also vital.

MATTHEW JONES

Current links to St John's Marlborough - Parent of three children: Currently two children at the school with a third joining year after next. I have a vested interest in the performance of the school and supporting staff

Relevant knowledge, skills and experience

I have significant experience, obtained over the last 20 years working in global leadership positions in board advisory firms, helping companies grow, restructure and acquire other companies. I have a substantial amount of board experience and a deep understanding of corporate governance. I have chaired many committees and sub-committees over the years. I would look to bring this experience to bare in supporting and furthering the success of the LGB.

Away from the corporate world, for 5 years I was chair of my local rugby club and supported generations of young people to take up the sport and reap the rewards that come with high collaboration, team activity.

Why I would like to be a governor

As an LGB member, I would hope to contribute successfully to continuing to raise educational standards and the personal achievement and camaraderie which is such an important part of a child's school years. I am sure that my corporate experience will be useful when it comes to developing the LGB strategy regards school infrastructure, funding, staff talent acquisition, standards setting that contribute to setting successful long-term highly aspirational goals. I also believe I can act as a coach and mentor to others where this is appropriate and useful to the LGB.

I am further drawn to the position, because the success of the LGB directly impacts the success of my three children – what better motivation is there to commit the time and drive for success. I am keen to be an active parent member of the teacher and school community, a proactive supporter to the rest of the LGB team and to the academy, as my three children grow and learn at the school. The school's success is therefore important to us as a family and I would be bringing a parent's perspective and passion to the LGB and to the academy

Areas of school life I feel best placed to contribute to and how I would do this

Well run schools are a direct consequence of the right level of oversight and support. Understanding good governance and how to exercise it is not always obvious. Real board experience in the commercial world will be a huge benefit to bringing about the kind of effective governance environment that will make the LGB a success, using the same skills I bring to bear when I advise companies how to succeed in the corporate world. In the end this is about a team being able to work effectively together, draw on each other's skills, work with respect, ambition and compassion towards a shared goal – and for many of us this will be the success of the school and therefore the success of all our children.

I would be particularly keen to support the Headteacher and their staff in delivering upon the mission statement of the school – the coherence between ambition and outcomes in practice is dear to my heart.

I have an enthusiasm and interest in education, especially how Ofsted go about drawing their conclusions on school performance and if I can help here in anyway, I would be more than willing.

C Jock M MacKenzie

Current links to St John's Marlborough – Child in Y10

Relevant knowledge, skills and experience

Managing Director of Marlix International BV (1987). This company had extensive waste management interests in Hungary. These interests were linked to providing an original strategic advisory platform for several international retail development clients in Central Europe. Clients have included but are not limited to: World Bank (ICFC), Tesco Europe, Auchan France, Cora France, Raiffeisen Bank Hungary, Pannonia University Hungary, Kecskemét City Council Hungary.

With current work and investments in Eastern Europe completed, since February 2013, Jock is now based back in UK (Wiltshire) undertaking new strategic advisory challenges. This personal profile and milestone achievements therefore relates to the last 45 years of his activity in Europe and before.

In more detail, with a practical background and qualifications in agriculture, engineering, construction and property development, he worked in Central Europe between 1991 2013. With a base in Hungary, he was responsible for the development of six regional shopping centres in Hungary; he has extensive experience in the Eastern European consumer sector and its supply chain, and he was well known in the region. Travelling extensively within the region during the period, he was keynote speaker or chaired over 17 international conferences relating to consumer sector and supply chain development since the fall of communism in 1989.

Over the period, with his global multi discipline experience, was responsible for attracting and landing very significant foreign direct investment. This has resulted in many much-respected corporations now having wide ranging interests in the region. He is specifically interested in strategic investment and SME development.

With the agreement and support of his family and close friends, his non-core interests include assisting projects related to national infrastructure. He has worked extensively with the communities of and in the Central European region. He was awarded an MBE by the Queen in 2002. Whilst he remains on the Board, he is retired founding Chairman of the Curatorium of the Robert Burns International Foundation in Budapest, a registered charity focused on: 1) Fund raising for sick and underprivileged children and young adults, 2) Providing cultural exchange opportunities for the same group and 3) Promoting and promulgating corporate social responsibility in Hungary and Central Europe.

He acts presently as a strategic advisor to several organisations in UK.

Why I would like to be a governor

Back in the UK after 30 years in Europe, I have firsthand experience of both UK schooling and European schooling. It is admitted that my recent experience in UK schooling is limited to that which I have seen at St Johns since 2013. Whilst both European systems have their own merits and drawbacks, I would like the opportunity to explore options to use my experiences for the benefit of St Johns.

Areas of school life I feel best placed to contribute to and how I would do this

Areas for possible strategic school development and opportunities which might enable improvement of and better utilization of existing assets to the benefit of the school. I have former extensive experience in UK private schools (including 6th form careers counseling.)

Current links to St John's Marlborough

Child in Y7, over the next four years a further two children joining St John's

Relevant knowledge, skills and experience

I have been running a business for the last 12 years, which has provided me with an in depth knowledge of the local commercial landscape. During this time I have gained many skills associated with growing a small business, most importantly liaising with both clients and employees to achieve the best outcomes for all involved.

I have a high level of man management and communication skills honed through different roles within business. Logistics and planning are a key part of my day to day responsibilities and can be applied in most working environments.

I acted as Chairperson for my children's pre-school, which has given me a sound base knowledge of heading up an early years foundation committee and how the relationship with Ofsted works within an educational organization.

Finally I am a mother of three children (two girls and one boy) who keep me very current!

Why I would like to be a governor

I have an interest in **all** children's futures. A desire to support teachers and pupils and accept a form of responsibility within the local community outside business. I would like to work within a team supporting the staff in their decision making whilst not being afraid to challenge the status quo. I am prepared to invest the time and commitment required to do this.

Areas of school life I feel best placed to contribute to and how I would do this

With three children of my own, I am well aware of the differing educational, emotional and health requirements of the individual. I understand the need to provide a well-rounded education. I also appreciate the importance of having happy staff members to make this journey possible. With this in mind, I am extremely conscious of mental health and the general wellbeing of pupils and staff, therefore this would be an area in which I would be most interested in contributing. Having been fortunate enough to gain a further education in the Arts, an area in which I still have great interest, I would also like to be involved in this facet of the school.

Current links to St John's Marlborough – Child in Y7

Relevant knowledge, skills and experience

1. Community is very important to me and I am actively involved in a number of community organisations. I was Co-Chair of Governors at Grafton Primary School, when sadly in 2011, due to very low pupil numbers we took the decision to close the school. It was a very sad time for the whole school and wider community. However, together with a brilliant team in Grafton Parish we developed a business case to open Sunflowers at Grafton as a children's nursery as a not for profit, community business. As a founding Trustee, I have worked with the Trustee team and stakeholders including the Salisbury Diocese (which owns the school buildings), to develop a fabulous business, offering wonderful childcare for local parents and we employ around 20 local people.
2. I have extensive marketing, communications and business experience from my 'first' career working in companies such as Sainsbury's, Selfridges and Abbey National. I love my 'second' career working as Chief of Staff for Claire Perry MP. In particular making a real difference to local peoples' lives by achieving casework 'wins' and leading local campaigns on Claire's behalf. For example, our campaign to improve broadband speeds in rural areas which included lobbying Government, Wiltshire Council and BT Openreach to secure additional investment and improve communications of this relatively complex (and burning) issue for Constituents.

Why I would like to be a governor

I should like to be a Governor at St John's to help the school, and the wider Excalibur Academies Trust, deliver the best possible education for our children and young people, and to help continue to 'raise the bar'. We are incredibly lucky in that St John's is such a brilliant school, as are the Primary Schools in the area but it is vital that in our global world, that our children are best prepared for the many challenges and opportunities which they will experience in their lifetimes.

Areas of school life I feel best placed to contribute to and how I would do this

If I were selected as a local governor I would hope to use my business skills and my community networks to help the school deliver its strategy and local objectives.

In particular I should like to support and enhance the school's work experience and careers programme so that students are well prepared for life beyond St John's. I have developed a comprehensive work experience scheme for young people interested in the work of an MP and Claire's office has hosted many students from St John's and other local schools over the last few years. I am also very keen to help young people consider Apprenticeships as a training route and I have recruited two Apprentices to Claire's office. The first Apprentice (a former student of St John's) has now completed her Apprenticeship programme and has secured a full time role in Claire's Westminster office, whilst the second Apprentice (a former student at Lavington and Devizes Schools) is now working towards his Apprenticeship in the Devizes office, in conjunction with Wiltshire College.

FIONA WHISTON

Current links to St John's Marlborough

Eldest daughter currently in year 13, middle daughter applying for sixth form and youngest daughter applying for year 7, both entry 2019.

Relevant knowledge, skills and experience

I was a community governor at All Cannings Primary School and prior to that, I was chair of All Cannings Preschool. During this time, we set up a soft federation with another local primary school which has proved to be a great success. I stood down two years ago after a ten year stint and now feel I would like to become involved again in supporting education in the community.

We have lived in the area for the best part of 15 years and run a farmyard regeneration project to the east of Devizes which means we have had a lot of contact with local rural businesses, local authorities and latterly, grant awarding bodies. The skills involved in running such a business I have found to be helpful in working as a governor in the past, and I am sure they would be helpful again.

Prior to starting a family I was a management consultant for both Deloitte and KPMG, which again has provided me with useful skills in terms of business assessment and strategy.

Why I would like to be a governor

I enjoy being useful and feel that my skills and experience could be helpful. I also like being part of a learning community. I very much enjoyed being a governor at All Cannings and assisting staff and students where necessary, and would like to take on such a role again.

Areas of school life I feel best placed to contribute to and how I would do this

As a parent with three daughters aged 11, 15 and 17 respectively, I feel I have a good understanding of pressures facing students today both socially and academically. With the well documented rise in anxiety levels in young people, it seems to me it is important for educational establishments to cater not just for their students' academic prowess but also for their emotional and mental wellbeing during these significant teenage years. I would be very happy to get involved in any projects which look at these issues.

With my previous professional background in HR and change management, I am also interested in the link between professional development for staff and how this feeds through into improving outcomes for students.

Lastly, my previous time as a governor has shown me that whilst it is essential to get on and get things done, it is also hugely important to take time to listen to students, staff and others connected with the school so that you develop a good understanding of what matters and where to direct future efforts. Some of our best interventions as a governing body came about as a result of proper in-depth listening and discussion.