



# Governors' Newsletter

October 2020

## A note from the Chair of Governors Rachel Leach



Hello and welcome to the latest edition of our Governors' Newsletter. The last newsletter was back in December 2019; so much has happened since then and we are all now trying to adjust to our new way of life. I think it is safe to say that Mr. Wanford and his team

have been excellent throughout the whole pandemic, providing lessons that were uploaded daily via Tapestry or YouTube, the weekly assemblies, parent/carer information videos and let's not forget the music video Mr. Ladyman put together.

During this time the governors have been working hard to support the school; we have met termly for our Local Governing Board Meetings via Zoom. Mr. Wanford and I have had regular phone calls and meetings.

The Local Governing Board wanted to thank all parents and carers for supporting the school. We are also aware some of you may be new to the school, and may not know who we are and what we do, therefore this newsletter is specifically to introduce the board.

Firstly, I'm Rachel Leach the Chair of Governors. I have been a governor since 2017, before the school opened, and I have been Chair of

Governors since November 2018. As a member of the local community I wanted to be involved with the school and knew being on the governing board would also help my professional development in education. I work at the Aylesbury Vale Academy as Head of Year 11 and I am currently studying for my National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership.

I hope you enjoy reading the Governors' newsletter.

## Sophy Davies, Vice Chair of Governors

Hello, I'm Sophy Davies. I have been a Governor at the school for about two and a half years. Currently I am Vice Chair of Governors and the link Governor for Year 3.



As part of the Governors' divided responsibilities I look at curriculum and statutory grants (Pupil Premium, Sports Premium and the new catch-up funding).

In my day job as a civil servant I am responsible for governance and oversight of my directorates' area of work, so being a governor is another way to use the skills I have gained from my work and to give back to the community.

In my spare time I am a keen crafter; my main interest is making patchwork quilts and I've tried my hand at card making and crochet. Knitting is next on the list to try...

I've lived in Berryfields for four years with my husband and our two cats.

## Sean English



I have been a Governor for Green Ridge Academy since 2018 and every year has come with a range of exciting opportunities and challenges. I was a Governor within my previous school, where I represented the teachers, and am proud to continue with this responsibility with Green Ridge.

As a governor, I provide information regarding the teaching and learning within the school. This year has been quite different as the school has had to adapt its curriculum to recognise and overcome any gaps in learning the children may have because of lockdown. We have called this our bridging curriculum. As the Director of Quality of Education, I also oversee the development of all other subjects across the school and have been working alongside our Curriculum Development Leads to ensure that the school has a broad and balanced curriculum.

In addition to the above, I am also the Pupil Premium Lead and support the governors in understanding the strategies we use and how they have been implemented across the school. This is an area I have worked on in previous years and through my work I want to ensure that every child receives what they need from the school to allow them to achieve their best. I am looking forward to the year ahead and getting to know any new parents/carers and children.

## Tara Erdos



Hello, my name is Tara Erdos and I am the non-teaching staff member of the governing body. I have worked at Green Ridge since May 2017 as the School Business Manager, overseeing non-curriculum areas such as Finance, HR, Health and Safety and Premises, in addition to leading the Admin and Site teams for the school and nursery.

I was lucky, during lockdown earlier this year, that I was able to do most of my work remotely. We were constantly adapting to changes in government guidance, working in line with our risk assessments to keep everyone safe, and adjusting our budgets as our income dropped, trying to make as little impact as possible on the environment to which the children came back in the Autumn term.

Now we are fully open and it is lovely to see everyone back at school, including our new children and families and new staff members as the school expands again!

## Judith Glover



I have been a REACh2 appointed governor for Green Ridge Academy since January 2020. I have been a secondary teacher for the last 14 years in the South East and, since moving to Aylesbury, I wanted an opportunity to give back to my local community.

I have appreciated the support I have had over the years, as a senior leader in school with my linked governor. I bring experience of meeting with HMI as the linked senior leader, during a Section 5 Ofsted inspection. This meeting was to evaluate the quality of SEND provision at my

former school and I look forward to working with the SEN coordinator at Green Ridge, Miss. Gardiner.

I am humbled that I have the privilege to work with Mr. Wanford and his team, because I value the impact schools have in their local area and I look forward to supporting the development and growth of Green Ridge as the Berryfields estate grows deeper and stronger roots.

### Ben Moloney



I am one of two parent governors at Green Ridge and have been so since 2019. I am responsible for Health and Safety and also have an oversight role of the Year 4 and Reception cohorts.

My daughter has been in the school since it opened, so I have seen the school grow from the green portacabins where the car park now is, to the fantastic fully-functional school site it is today.

I became a governor as I wanted to help ensure that Green Ridge can be the best it can be. I truly believe that every child has the potential to be amazing, provided they are given the right chances and support throughout their childhoods, and this is something I see the staff at Green Ridge doing each and every day.

I'm in the military and work for the MOD in Whitehall, so as you can imagine I believe that children need to be taught, coached and mentored to be resilient enough to cope with any challenges that they may come across as they mature into teenagers all the way through to becoming adults and productive members of society.

### Laura Nunn



I have been a parent governor for two and a half years. I have two children at Green Ridge – Jessie, who has been here since the school first opened, and is now in Year 3, and Zoe, who has just started Reception. So, much

like Ben, I have a vested interest in helping Green Ridge maintain its high standards.

As a governor, I take responsibility for Equality and Diversity within the school, and I am also a link governor for Year 2. Governors follow a single year throughout the school, so we get to know the children in our link group and get to track their progress.

My background is in financial services, specifically in learning and development and project management. Whilst my Canary Wharf days are behind me, I enjoy bringing the transferrable skills to my role as a governor. I am currently working as an editor, proof-reader and copywriter.

In my spare time I play the piano, read a lot and hope to enjoy travel and theatre again in the not-too-distant future.

### Chris Stait



I'm the newest governor on the board, having joined in the summer of 2020, and I'm also relatively new to the

area.

I'm a solicitor by profession, with a strong STEM background, and work for a non-profit research organisation that aims to accelerate the early adoption of advanced digital technologies for the

benefit of the UK economy. I'm keen to play my part in the wonderful Berryfields community, including by being an active governor.

I've always had a particular interest in education, and was previously a STEM ambassador, promoting the pursuit of STEM subjects to secondary school pupils. I hope to provide constructive challenge and support to the school's board and senior leadership, to help maintain the high standards the teachers and academy have set for themselves, and which the parents/carers and community of Berryfields expect.

In my spare time, I can be found in the numerous parks around Berryfields with my two children, and picking litter from around the Berryfields estate as a [Womble](#).

## Chris Whiting



I joined Green Ridge as a school governor in March 2019 and it has been a pleasure to see the school grow and witness the fantastic level of teaching and leadership. Equally as important is the respect

for one another that the school teaches. It brings a smile to my face when I see the children walking quietly to lunch, and when asked why they are doing this, they respond with "because others are learning".

I have worked in the hospitality industry for 17 years and have worked in Human Resources for six of these. Throughout my career I have always maintained close links with schools to support children in developing their readiness for work. For many years I have had a close link to a school for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

I wanted to provide support by using my skills and knowledge within strategic HR to help Green Ridge achieve (and exceed) its objectives, goals and vision. Having been a school governor for over a year now it is safe to say there is far more to running a school than meets the eye!

In my spare time I enjoy spending this with friends and family, traveling, going to the theatre (although like most of us, traveling and the theatre was mainly put on hold this year!) and spend lots of downtime watching Netflix.

Children are the future and it's rewarding to help ensure that every child is given the opportunity to reach their full potential.