



MEMBERS

Jacqui Canton (Chair)

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

Terry Stock

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

Lucinda Ramsey

Emeritus, Mansfield College, Oxford University. She led on access and admissions, with some 95% from state comprehensive schools at the college. Just retired as a senior lecturer, Lucinda remains a part time role with the access team for the university, recognised for her contributions as a whole through her recent recognition as an MBE. (Appointed from November 2024).

Gabby Barody

Gabby is currently Abingdon Mayor and Town Councillor for Northcourt Ward in Abingdon; and has a passion for community and youth voice/wellbeing, bringing this to the Trust's work with its wider communities.

Becky Dougall

Rebecca is an experienced teacher and currently Headmistress of the outstanding St Helen and St Katharine School, Abingdon, was 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 nearly 20 years of school and academy governance and the National College leadership development programme, and Oxfordshire County Council's Schools Organisation and Admissions stakeholder group. Jonathan brings skills in **leadership and governance in schools and charities** to the Trust, alongside his expertise in comms and PR from his 'day job'.

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. Lynn brings a substantial **knowledge of education, compliance and governance**.

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 very 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. She brings **deep knowledge of corporate HR and SEND and disadvantaged students** to the Board.

Dr Grace Clifton

Grace is currently Assistant Dean 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. Grace has a **broad and deep understanding of all phases of education, especially staff development and ITT**.

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**.

Steve Fisher

Steve is an education leader with a proven track record of school improvement, both at secondary and primary level, and currently Executive Headteacher of a SAT in the northwest. He has over a decade of **improving schools** behind him and brings a wealth of **expertise and skills** to the Board providing knowledgeable challenge and support to the Trust executive and schools.

He has designed and implemented curriculum and staffing models that significantly improved school finances and improved outcomes. He received the NPQEL in the first cohort, and has prior experience of designing and leading on leadership training programme for one of the country's largest MATs.

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 a local primary school 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.

ASSOCIATE TRUSTEE (sits on the Compliance committee)

Julian Thrussell

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

HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

Jane Johnson

Jane has seven years experience at senior governance and clerk level roles in small, medium and large multi-academy trusts across Oxfordshire - working with primary, secondary and all through schools. She has specific recent training in GDPR for schools, cybersecurity, EDI and Level 3 leading governance qualification.

Her previous career was in management at executive level in the academic bookselling industry with expertise in project management and international customer relations (private companies and PLCs). Jane is an Economics graduate and life long linguist (Spanish/German).

DEPUTY HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

Debbie Brooks

As a former primary phase teacher, and with experience in both the independent and state education sectors, Debbie brings her knowledge of the phase and governance to the role of clerk to Rush Common School, and the Trust Board's Compliance Committee. She also undertakes regular training to ensure that advice to exclusion and other appeal panels are up to date across the Trust.