

November 2019

Dear parents/carers

Mrs Green, chair of governors, wrote to you on 15th October 2019 to invite nominations for the **three** vacancies for parent governors.

As we have more candidates than vacancies, we must now hold a ballot. With this letter, you'll have received a ballot paper (two ballots on one sheet) with the names of the candidates and two envelopes. Each parent/carer is entitled to vote and you may vote for up to **three** of the candidates.

You should:

- Read the candidate statements attached to this letter
- Mark an X alongside the candidates' names you wish to vote for. Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way
- Insert the completed ballot paper in the unmarked envelope and seal it
- Insert the unmarked envelope containing the ballot paper into the second envelope, fill in your details and seal it
- Return your ballot paper to Student Services by **12 noon** on **10th December 2019**

The use of two envelopes ensures that your vote remains confidential. Your details on the second envelope will be checked against the list of those entitled to vote. This envelope will then be removed so that your vote is anonymous.

Students will be bringing this paperwork home with them this afternoon. Please note, each parent/carer is only entitled to submit one completed ballot paper regardless of how many children you currently have in school.

To help inform your decision, here is a reminder of the skills and aptitudes Mrs Green, our chair of governors, wrote about when inviting nominations for the three vacancies.

Following a skills audit of the current Governing Body, we are particularly looking for parents with the following skills and experience:

- Qualified accountant or finance professional, preferably within the public sector
- Buildings and construction, facilities management, preferably within the public sector
- Qualified member of the legal profession
- Community focused individual, active in the Lymm community

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

Lymm High School, Oughtrington Lane, Lymm, WA13 0RB
01925 755458 info@lymmhigh.org.uk www.lymmhigh.org.uk



At Lymm High School we place high value on the contribution made by the seven elected parent governors on the governing body. They bring objectivity to the role, acting as a representative rather than a delegate of the parents, promoting the best interests of all the children in the school and not those of their own child(ren) or other individuals. They have regard to the broader responsibilities expected as a governor of a public institution regarding promoting accountability for its actions and performance. Whilst it is a voluntary role, it is one which we all try to approach with professionalism. We do offer training and a buddy system for those new to governance, so experience of governance within the school setting is not essential.

If you have any queries about this process, please contact myself via telephone (01925 755458) or email (hheadon@lymmhigh.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Headon', written in a cursive style.

Mrs H Headon
Returning Officer

Enc: Personal statements
x 2 envelopes, ballot papers

Candidate Statements for Parent Governor Election November 2019

Fiona Denwood – As a parent to a year 7 student I am keen to help ensure that Lymm High School continues to be a school we're proud to send our children to. I hope that as a qualified accountant and working for a FTSE 100 company in a key finance role I'll be able to make a positive contribution to how Lymm High operates its finances, where it invests funding and help support our children's futures.

I would describe my personal qualities as being decisive, analytical and passionate about driving improvements. I would look to work with parents, teachers and the governing body to drive the ongoing improvements to provide our children with the best chance of success.

I would hope to be an asset to the school, dedicating my time to be a proactive and effective school governor.

Liesl Hacker – My name is Liesl Hacker and my husband, baby and I moved to Lymm 16 years ago. We now have 2 boys, and we have loved raising them both as part of the local community. They both attend LHS, and are now in years 10 and 12.

As a qualified Chartered Accountant, with over 20 years public sector finance and audit experience, I'm ideally suited to ensure that LHS has financial controls and governance arrangements in place to appropriately manage its funds.

In my current role as Assistant Director of Finance at The Christie Hospital, I'm responsible for negotiating contracts with NHS commissioners, and for facilitating the implementation of new services and treatments. This requires me to understand, analyse and challenge complex clinical, operational and financial information and data, and to present and negotiate persuasive cases for change. These are skills that would be invaluable as a School Governor.

My husband, Matt, is Principal at a Salford high school academy, providing me with a useful insight in to secondary education.

I'm a community-focussed person. I'm Treasurer and Social Media Secretary for Cheshire Wire Basketball Club, I have been a member of LHS's PTA for a number of years, and I'm also a qualified British Cycling Coach and Accredited Road Marshal.

I always endeavour to do my best in all I do, and as a LHS Parent Governor I would be committed to ensuring that LHS provides the best opportunities and experience for its students.

Elisabeth Jeffery – My name is Liz Jeffery and I am a barrister currently working for the Crown Prosecution Service. Previously I was in private practice and undertook a variety of work but had a flair for criminal cases (possibly because both of my parents were in the police). I have 3 children, the older 2 having been through Lymm High School from year 7 to year 13 and my third child is currently in year 9, having joined Lymm after Easter of year 8.

The experience we had with her previous school made me realise that parent participation in the governance can make all the difference to how the school operates. It is an excellent way of holding the school to account if it is failing its students, and a fantastic way to celebrate and encourage achievement.

A parent's job is to ensure their child receives the best education possible, regardless of ability or aspiration and a parent governor can help to do this for all children, not just their own. I have a particular interest in children who do not seek to follow the traditional educational path into University and also for children with special needs.

Lymm High School served my eldest 2 children well... one following the non -traditional path and the other being on the gifted and talented programme and now being happily settled at University.

My background gives me skills in negotiation, advocacy and critical thinking and my current role involves extremely quick decision making on the facts presented. I am not afraid to come to a rapid conclusion but only do so if I am in possession of enough knowledge to allow this to happen. If I am not, I will ask questions until I am satisfied I can arrive at a well -reasoned and thought through conclusion. I value the contribution of others and will respond positively to their input and will not stick to my point of view if I can be persuaded I am wrong. Flexibility in approach is necessary for all members of a committee to ensure it can function effectively.

I now have the time and ability to commit to being a governor and would love the opportunity to give something back to the community my children are a part of.

Fleur Middlebrough – My eldest daughter is in year 8 and my youngest daughter is moving up to the school in September 2020. I have been a governor of Oughtrington Community Primary School for the past 8 years, which has given me a wealth of experience as a governor, sitting on the curriculum and finance committees as well as serving within the main governing body. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a parent governor within the primary school and believe my experience would now be best served within the high school as my daughters move to the high school and I would look forward to acting on the behalf of parents for the best interest of our children.

My background is originally in finance and business law, having spent over 20 years in industry, I then decided to retrain in education and qualified as a teacher within a secondary school in 2011. My job has enabled me to have a deeper insight in to how a school is organised and education from the inside. Within an educational setting, I have been able to assist with the developments of curriculum. Many of my roles involve the development of the curriculum and understanding how schools can meet the needs of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. In 2017 I moved into Higher Education, due to my previous experience in industry and now am a Law Lecturer, which enables me to understand legal matters which may affect the school and ask the ‘critical’ questions, to ensure that the decisions made are for the benefit of the students.

Gareth Neal – As a parent of two children in the school, I have a vested interest in how the school is managed, run and delivers excellence. In addition to this I am committed to making a difference and “doing my bit”. I have been a volunteer at Lymm RFC for 7 years and continue to do so as I feel that all of us should give something back. I see being a governor in the same way and see it as a very important responsibility. As a governor, I believe my professional experience as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor with extensive experience of school building programmes would also benefit Lymm High School. I have 25 years experience in procuring and delivering construction works both new build and refurbishment. I therefore understand and can advise on critical matters such as how to procure any works, advise on funding and preparation of funding applications, advise on professional consultants and advise on matters as the works proceed.

As a commercial director I am also very au fait with management accounts and digesting financial reporting.

If asked, I would genuinely love to be a governor at Lymm High school and believe that I have lots to offer in terms of skills, a fresh outlook and energy to help drive forward the short and long term plans for the school and ultimately help drive educational excellence in all parts of the school.

Jon Sutcliffe – Lymm is a fantastic school with a catchment of hardworking students, who are keen to achieve their potential. This provides the school a great opportunity to thrive and it has a good track record of achievement. I believe the next challenge is to ensure the school continually excels under a set of increasingly difficult economic and regulatory constraints. With my background, I find this a particularly appealing challenge!

As an Enterprise Architect my role involves analysing all elements of an organisation to understand what needs to change and how to change, in order to make it the very best. It requires a high level of skills in strategic planning, critical analysis, decision-making and governance. Also a technologist at heart, I will be driving how we can use technology more in the running and education of our children.

In terms of my own educational path, I followed a less conventional route. I left school at sixteen to join British Aerospace as an engineering apprentice and then returned to education later to complete three degrees in Computing, Social Sciences and Business. More recently, I’ve held senior positions at Barclays and now Bupa, which has allowed me to work closely with technology companies in Silicon Valley and subsidiaries in Hong Kong.

I feel passionately that if you create the right environment, all our children will thrive and this works on many levels: teaching, facilities and the school culture. My aim is to help bring this together.