



Balcarras Local Governing Body Register of Governors 2023-24

All governors are appointed or elected for a 4-year term of office.

Governing bodies are under duty to publish on their website their *register of interests* and these, if any, are given below.

Rik Boulton – Parent Governor

Rik has a son and daughter at Balcarras and was elected as a parent governor in February 2018 and again in 2023. Rik is keen to ensure that Balcarras continues to offer excellent opportunities for all pupils, whatever their background, in a safe, happy, dynamic environment and that meaningful links to the local, national and international community continue to develop. Rik works as a film and TV director.

Member of the Curriculum committee.

Dominic Burke – Headteacher

Dom became a governor of Balcarras when he took up the headship in September 2016 although he had attended governor meetings since joining the senior management team in 2011.

He has over twenty years experience of teaching, starting his career in 2002 at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham teaching history, politics and performing a number of other roles including Assistant Head of Year, training manager and a staff governor.

In 2007 Dom joined Balcarras as Head of History. In 2009 he took on responsibility for new staff induction and for several years oversaw the entry of some incredibly talented teachers into the profession. He joined the senior management team in 2011 taking on responsibility for teaching and learning and co-ordinating our Teaching School offer.

In 2014 Dom was appointed as Deputy Head with responsibility for curriculum and timetable. He designed three school timetables (2014, 15, 16) and found it surprisingly enjoyable. When Chris Healy announced his retirement in January 2016 Dom applied for the headship and was very proud to be appointed in February that year.

Member of the Admissions and Curriculum committees.

CEO of The Balcarras Trust

Director of Gloucestershire Association of Secondary Headteachers - non-pecuniary interest

Treasurer of Cheltenham Association of Secondary Headteachers - non-pecuniary interest

Chair of the Gloucestershire Initial Teacher Education Partnership (GITEP) Management Committee - non-pecuniary interest

Academy Representative of Gloucestershire Schools Forum (2023-27) - non-pecuniary interest

Chris Hansen – Appointed Governor

Following a 4-year term as a parent governor which began in 2019, Chris has now been appointed to the board by governors. Chris has a daughter who attends Balcarras.

Having initially trained as a PE teacher, Chris has been in school leadership for 17 years and currently works as headteacher of a large split-site primary school in Worcestershire. He is committed to supporting all aspects of life at Balcarras, from the enrichment of a broad and varied curriculum to maintaining strong pupil outcomes and readiness for life beyond school. Through his capacity as a school governor, Chris also Chairs the Strategic Board for the Balcarras Teaching School hub.

Vice-Chair of the Local Governing Body – Balcarras.

Chair of the Curriculum committee.

Governor Representative for the School Development Plan.

Employee of Mercian Educational Trust – non-pecuniary interest

Karen Holdsworth – Appointed Governor

Karen and her husband Chris have two sons at Balcarras and a younger daughter (not yet school age). They have lived in Charlton Kings for over twenty years.

In her professional life, Karen is FCA qualified and has worked in Finance leadership roles within Gloucestershire for Kraft Foods, the NHS and Kohler Mira. She is currently UK Financial Controller for Spirax Sarco and is a pension trustee.

Governor Representative for Finance.

Trustee of Spirax Sarco Executives Pension Scheme – non-pecuniary interest.

Trustee of Spirax Sarco Employee Pension Fund – non-pecuniary interest.

Pak Wai Hung – Parent Governor

Pak Wai is a former solicitor. He was a solicitor in London for 10 years. He specialised in the areas of Human Rights, Asylum and Immigration Law. His final position before leaving the law was as the Supervisor of the Appeals Team for a central London practice. His caseload included appeal cases to the Court of Appeal and the High Court. In his time as a lawyer, he also practiced family and children's law, crime, employment and benefits. Pak Wai has two daughters at Balcarras. He enjoys road cycling, running and dog walking.

Pak Wai left London in 2005 and set up a small family restaurant in Cheltenham with his wife, a former RE teacher and Head of Department. He has a completely hands on approach to the business. He has sole responsibility for the budget, purchasing, pay roll and customer service. Pak Wai is the **Data Protection Officer**.

Member of the Community committee.

Governor Representative for the Catering committee and School Data Protections Officer.

Director of 288 Bar & Wok Ltd – pecuniary interest

Executive member of the Liberal Democrats (Cheltenham) Party – non-pecuniary interest

Howard Kellett – Appointed Governor – Chair of Governors

Howard trained as a teacher at St Paul's College in Cheltenham and was Head of Humanities at schools in Oxford and London. More recently he has been employed in Church leadership in London and Manchester. In 2009 Howard returned to Cheltenham to pioneer and establish Godfirst Church, whilst briefly returning to geography teaching at Balcarras and Prince Henry's in Evesham.

Having really enjoyed his time at Balcarras, he couldn't stay away and was elected as a parent governor in September 2011, and now is serving as an appointed governor. Howard and Naomi have three children who have all loved attending Balcarras.

Chair of Governors.

Member of the Curriculum committee.

Trustee of Godfirst Church Cheltenham – non-pecuniary interest

Trustee of Grace Church Glasgow – non-pecuniary interest

Amy Lilley-Stewart – Appointed Governor

Amy is currently the Assistant Director for Professional Learning and Development at High Performance Learning. Amy has worked in the education sector both nationally and internationally in a variety of educational contexts. Amy started her career as a teacher of art, progressing quickly to Head of Art in large secondary school in the North East of England. Amy has a wealth of experience working in Initial Teacher Training, having led the Art and Design PGCE at Northumbria University for a year, moving into a Programme Leader role for the North East Partnership and GTP programme at Northumbria University. During her time in Australia, Amy was the Professional Learning and Conference Manager for the Design and Technology Teachers Association working across the state of Victoria. Amy spent a year in the Netherlands as a consultant for Breda University of Applied Sciences. On her return to the UK, Amy worked in education settings in Gloucestershire ranging from Primary, Secondary, Pupil Referral Units and FE colleges. This inspired Amy to seek opportunities in raising aspirations in young people and was employed as the Marketing and Outreach Manager at the University of Gloucestershire. Most recently, Amy worked at the University of Gloucestershire leading the Secondary Initial Teacher Training routes and working closely with colleagues in schools on delivering high quality mentoring and trainee teacher outcomes. Amy is currently completing her PhD in Creative Arts Practice and Wellbeing.

Amy lives locally and one of her children attends a local primary school and one attends Balcarras.

Member of the Curriculum committee.

Paul Meathrel – Parent Governor

Paul was elected as a parent governor in Feb 2022 and has a son at Balcarras. He is passionate about ensuring the best possible provision and opportunities for all children.

He currently leads a group of churches in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire and previously spent more than a decade as General Manager of a successful Software business. The charity he currently works for also runs an independent school. Paul has been a trustee of multiple charities and held other board positions in the past, mainly in the education sector.

Member of the Community committee.

Employee of Bright Futures Oxfordshire – non-pecuniary interest

Peter Mitchener – Appointed Governor

Peter is an appointed governor and was elected in June 2020. He is an Actuary with 33 years experience in the Insurance Industry where he worked for Eagle Star, Zurich, Bupa, Friends Life and Aviva. Over this time, he has performed a wide variety of commercial, governance, analytical, marketing and leadership roles. Peter has been an appointed governor of Balcarras previously (2006-2012) and he chaired the finance committee for a number of years, was a member of the curriculum committee and was heavily involved in the admissions process and appeals to the school. Peter is delighted to have a second opportunity to be a governor at Balcarras.

Peter has lived in Cheltenham since 1991. He has a partner, a son called Tom and a cat called Archimedes. He plays competitive tennis at East Glos club, regularly competes in running events, is a qualified "Leader in Running Fitness" for the Almost Athletes running club and is a member of the Cheltenham parkrun core team which organises the event each week.

Vice-Chair of the Local Governing Body – Balcarras.

Chair of the Community committee.

Member of the Curriculum committee.

Gloucestershire NHS Foundation Trust Governor – non-pecuniary interest

Trustee of Crossroads Care Gloucestershire – non-pecuniary interest

East Glos Tennis Club Director – non-pecuniary interest

Adrienne Niblett – Staff Governor

Adrienne has been appointed as a staff governor for 4 years and has previously served as a staff governor on 2 previous occasions. She is well established on the staff, having taught at Balcarras since 2004 in the geography department. Adrienne has been Head of Department, then Head of Year in the Sixth Form and now she is Head of Selvey House. For 5 years Adrienne was also the EPQ co-ordinator: EPQ is a qualification taken alongside A-levels, aimed at preparing them better for university and work.

Adrienne takes a very active role in extra-curricular activities, having coordinated the Outlook Expeditions for 10 years – where students spend four weeks in far-flung places, doing community work and she has also helped out at other clubs such as netball.

Member of the Curriculum committee.

Joanna Kurlbaum – Parent Governor

Joanna was appointed governor in September 2023. She has one daughter who is studying at university after 7 enjoyable years at Balcarras, and a second daughter who is still benefiting from all the school offers.

Joanna has worked at four Gloucestershire secondary schools over the years and is currently a German teacher and Head of Year locally. She has a keen interest in safeguarding, diversity and in pastoral work, in particular in supporting children who may be struggling with their mental health.

Over the years, she has co-authored the book, Winning the H Factor, the Secrets of Happy Schools, provided copy for various educational magazines and websites, and delivered Inset training to local schools on the subject of Mindset.

Member of the Community committee

Employee of Pate's Grammar school (education) – non-pecuniary interest

Partner of Parsonage Acres – pecuniary interest

Gavin Thomas OBE – Appointed Governor

Gavin was appointed as a parent governor in November 2019 and was elected as an appointed governor in 2023. He has a daughter still at Balcarras and is delighted to be part of the Balcarras team and is committed to supporting the staff and pupils to continue to deliver both a first-class education who are well prepared for life beyond school life.

Gavin works as a consultant, having previously been a senior police officer both in Gloucestershire and in a national role. He has previous experience as a school governor, and in wider governance roles on national bodies, and has experience in child protection and safeguarding, both locally and nationally. He enjoys sport, long distance cycling, walking and his garden, which is never finished!

He was appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday honours 2019 for services to policing.

Member of the Community committee.

Governor Representative for The Health & Safety committee.

Associate – KPMG – pecuniary interest

Partner – Ethos VO Consultancy – pecuniary interest

Associate – City Forum – non-pecuniary interest

Director – Chosen Views Ltd – pecuniary interest

Placemaker Tech – non-pecuniary interest

Director Team Police L+O – pecuniary interest

Clare Shields – Support Staff Governor

Clare was appointed as a support staff governor in 2021 and has worked at Balcarras School in the Individual Learning Department for over 11 years before moving to the Sixth Form team to work as a Study Supervisor and Tutor.

Member of the Community committee.

Laura Williams – Appointed Governor

Laura has lived in Cheltenham for over twenty-five years. She came here with her husband to do teacher training at the University and loved the town so much they decided to stay and set up their first home here. Their three children have all been through Balcarras and have thoroughly enjoyed their experiences there – their youngest child is still at the school.

Laura currently works in a school as a SENDCo, this is a relatively new role for her and one that she finds enjoyable and challenging. One of her main interests is sport, keeping fit and enjoying an active lifestyle. As a family they all greatly enjoy participating, watching and attending a large range of sporting events. Laura loves travelling and visiting new places during the summer holidays, building up many memories with her children.

Member of the Curriculum committee.

Governor Representative for SEND & Safeguarding Governor.

Alison Williams – Parent Governor

Alison has a daughter currently in Year 13 and a son in Year 10 (2023).

She has a background in HR Management, Recruitment and employability having worked for the Met Police and Gloucestershire Constabulary as well as in Insurance and banking. Alison changed direction when her children were small and went back to University to study Careers Guidance. She now works as an independent Careers Advisor in local secondary schools. Alison values comprehensive education and supports a broad and varied curriculum alongside a lot of opportunities to develop extra curricular interests. She strongly supports quality careers education and guidance for children of all abilities in order to prepare them for their adult lives.

Member of the Curriculum committee.