



# Aylesbury High School

## GOVERNOR PROFILES

**Name:** Helen Bush  
**Governor Type:**  
Parent Governor  
**Initial Appointment Date:**  
4 December 17  
**Current Term of Office:**  
4 December 17 to 3 December 21  
**Committee Membership:**  
Teaching & Learning and Personnel  
**Governor Role:**  
Safeguarding Governor



With 7 years' experience as a governor in local primary schools, I remain Chair of the Governing Board at Bedgrove Junior School, where I was originally appointed to the Interim Executive Board which took over the governance of the school when it went into special measures in 2013. As a member of the IEB I helped the school improve to its current 'good' status within two years and remain committed to the school achieving 'outstanding'. I am also chair of the school's Teaching & Learning Committee. As a governor at

Bedgrove Infant School for 5 years, I was vice chair for two years and chaired the Curriculum Committee.

I am passionate about the role which education plays in inspiring, challenging and enabling young people to succeed in life, and am personally committed to ensuring that every pupil has the opportunities to achieve to the best of their ability.

I have been a full-time mum to my daughter (who joined AHS in 2017) since giving up work in the voluntary sector as a policy advisor, including at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. This included two secondments into government departments to advise on voluntary sector policy.

**Name:** James Chandler  
**Governor Type:**  
Community (previously Parent)  
**Initial Appointment Date:**  
11 November 13  
**Current Term of Office:**  
3 July 17 to 2 July 21  
**Committee Membership:**  
Resources (Chair)  
**Governor Role:**  
Deputy Chair of Governors  
Member of the Academy Trust



When my first daughter joined AHS I volunteered to become a Parent Governor. I wanted to follow the AHS ethos of getting involved and doing your best, since I believe this shouldn't be limited to just the students.

Much of my involvement thus far has utilised by professional background in finance, looking at aspects around financial control, data analysis, strategy and planning - set against the backdrop of constant pressure on budgets. I am a Chartered Accountant by training, originally in Audit, but have worked for the last 16 years in FTSE100 businesses, currently with BT.

Both daughters still attend AHS, and more recently I have been privileged to be appointed as a Community Governor and Deputy Chair. I look forward to continuing the support of AHS to maintain the excellent reputation for giving the best opportunities, through all manner of learning and activities, for both current and future girls.



# Aylesbury High School

**Name:** Arfan Chaudhry

**Governor Type:**

Community (previously Parent)

**Initial Appointment Date:**

22 November 10

**Current Term of Office:**

8 October 18 to 7 October 22

**Committee Membership:**

Resources, Teaching & Learning and Personnel

**Governor Role:**

Chair of Governors

Member of the Academy Trust



I became a Parent Governor when my daughter joined the school in 2010 and have been actively involved in all aspects of the development of the school. Early in my Governor appointment I became a member of the Working Group that was established to prepare our move to Academy Status. Following the move to an Academy I became Deputy Chair of Governors and in 2015, as a Community Governor, I was appointed Chair of the Governing Body.

As the beneficiary of single sex grammar school education and with a son at AGS I am committed to ensuring that the quality of education, life chances and opportunities that AHS offers its students is the best. The particular challenge of the funding constraints under which the school operates and our ability to continue to provide the best learning environment possible is the main reason I remain a Governor at AHS (even now that my daughter has left AHS). I'm a civil servant by profession with a background in accounting and finance and have lived in Aylesbury since 1995.

**Name:** John Clarke

**Governor Type:**

Community (previously Parent)

**Initial Appointment Date:**

15 December 14

**Current Term of Office:**

15 December 18 to 14 December 22

**Committee Membership:**

Teaching & Learning and Personnel



My name is John Clarke, I am Chairman and CEO of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) company in Oxford, working with the University. Apart from being a governor I am also a non-executive with a company called Brain in Hand which supports Autism via mobile technology and a Digital Non Exec with the DWP. I have a daughter at AHS who is currently taking her GCSEs.

So why did I add a Governor to this list of roles, quite simply because I am passionate about the importance of education and our need to invest in future talent. So as a parent and employer, I wanted to do my bit and try to strengthen the contribution made by AHS and also to play a part in introducing digital ways of working into education. Apart from that, we live in Great Missenden and when not travelling to Aylesbury or Oxford, my family and I spend our time walking and cycling in the lovely Chilterns Hills. Usually with our dog and often with our cat in hot pursuit; it is quite a funny sight!



# Aylesbury High School

**Name:** Jonathan Cook

**Governor Type:**

Staff

**Initial Appointment date:**

7 December 15

**Current Term of Office:**

7 December 15 to 6 December 19

**Committee Membership:**

Teaching & Learning



I became a Teacher Governor when I joined the teaching staff in 2016 and have been actively involved in all aspects of the development of the school. Early in my Governor appointment I became a member of the Teaching and Learning Group that was established to ensure the quality and appropriateness of the curriculum and learning experience within Aylesbury High School.

The reason I become a Governor is to have an input into how the school is run and to gain an understanding of all that goes on behind the scenes. I

also believe that I have some experience that will be useful in helping the school with its mission moving into the future.

**Name:** James Davis

**Governor Type:**

Parent

**Initial Appointment date:**

7 December 15

**Current Term of Office:**

7 December 15 to 6 December 19

**Committee Membership:**

Personnel and Resources

**Governor Role:**

Deputy Chair of the Resources

Committee



I became a Parent Governor in 2015, a few weeks after my daughter joined AHS in Year 7. In September 2017, my son joined AGS. I live in Hertfordshire but with both children at school in Aylesbury find myself regularly in the immediate vicinity of the school.

When my daughter started at the school, I was immediately struck by the passion and commitment of the staff. I was keen to offer a positive contribution to the workings of the school and to

experience a subject area with which I had no prior familiarity. As a Parent Governor, I do not expect to drive progress and change, that will be something for the Senior Management Team, but I would want to be able to challenge and assess where appropriate.

I have two children for whom sport is a passion and something which has a very positive effect on their school lives. I am particularly inspired by the efforts of the sports staff at AHS who seek to maintain the tradition of sporting strength and inclusivity at the school, never an easy balance.

Away from the school, I am a Solicitor at a small Central London Practice, specialising in Commercial Litigation, broadly defined as disputes of any kind about money.



# Aylesbury High School

**Name:** Christina (Chris) Elliot

**Governor Type:**

Co-Opted (previously Parent)

**Initial Appointment Date:**

January 16

**Current Term of Office:**

December 17 to December 21

**Committee Membership:**

Teaching and Learning and Resources

**Governor Role:**

SEND and Pupil Premium Governor



Having put down roots near Aylesbury to establish stability for our family due to a rather nomadic life as part of the Armed Forces, I was keen to be part of the school community to support the leadership, teaching, pastoral and support teams that guide and shape our daughters in their journey to adulthood. I have been part of the Royal Air Force for over 30 years and I am acutely aware of the challenges in developing and motivating young people to make the most of their latent talents and the additional challenges of providing the best experiences possible for the girls through good governance, planning and investment in a teaching and support team that feel valued and recognised for work that they do.

As a beneficiary of an education at a great school where academic, sporting, creative and vocational success was encouraged and supported, I am committed to now doing my part to support AHS in any way that I can. I am delighted that I am now the Governor for Special Educational Needs and Disability and Pupil Premium - ensuring that the girls who would benefit from a broader range of support activities have the maximum possible access to the whole school experience.

A son at our neighbouring school, AGS, family life will continue to be focused in Buckinghamshire despite my continued Service in the Royal Air Force.

**Name:** Neil Esslemont

**Governor Type:**

Parent

**Initial Appointment Date:**

4 December 17

**Current Term of Office:**

December 17 to December 21

**Committee Membership:**

Resources and Personnel

**Governor Role:**

Deputy Chair of Personnel Committee



I became a Parent Governor in late 2017 and I am pleased to have the opportunity to be more involved in the life of the school. I have also been a Parent Governor at Turnfurlong Junior School since 2015.

In my professional life I am a Chartered Geologist and I work for Network Rail. In my spare time, I play (and teach) the bagpipes.



# Aylesbury High School

**Name:** Mark Francas

**Governor Type:**

Parent

**Initial Appointment Date:**

4 December 17

**Current Term of Office:**

4 December 17 to December 21

**Committee Membership:**

**Teaching & Learning and Personnel**

**Governor Role:**

Equalities Governor



I am a new Parent Governor, having been appointed in Dec 2017. I have a daughter currently in Year 10 at AHS. This is her fourth year at AHS, having joined the school during Year 7 when my family relocated to the UK from Australia in January 2015.

I don't have any previous experience as a school Governor, or in the education sector, so look to bring a fresh perspective to the Governing Body. I am committed to ensuring that AHS continues to deliver the highest quality of learning environment and learning opportunities to pupils. I am keen to support the school in its role to develop young women with excellent educational qualifications but also with the confidence, resilience and integrity to help achieve a rewarding and fulfilling life.

I retired from the workforce in 2017, after a long career in marketing and public policy research. Over that time I ran my own business as managing partner of a research consultancy for many years and more recently have held senior roles with a large international research agency. I am married with 3 children, and live in Berkhamsted.

**Name:** Alison Pexton

**Governor Type:**

Staff

**Initial Appointment Date:**

5 March 18

**Current Term of Office:**

5 March 18 to 4 March 22

**Committee Membership:**

Resources



I am delighted to be a Staff Governor at Aylesbury High School!

After a successful and exciting career in international marketing and business development for major corporates, I moved in to the education sector to develop schools through business and community links. This included delivering employability skills training to young people of all ages, to help empower them to achieve their personal goals and aspirations – something I feel very passionate about. An equal passion is promoting the education and support of young people with communication difficulties and to achieve greater recognition of the challenges they face.

As Development Director at Aylesbury High School, I am supporting the school to establish and enhance its Alumnae, business and community links; whilst developing support for its new initiatives as part of the Building a Brighter Future Campaign. This has resulted in my involvement in many exciting school projects and so becoming further involved as a Staff Governor seemed a natural progression for me and an opportunity to contribute more to the development of our school.



# Aylesbury High School

**Name:** Dennis Phillips  
**Governor Type:**  
Community (previously Local  
Education Authority)  
**Initial Appointment:**  
September 90  
**Current Term of Office:**  
29 June 15 to 28 June 19  
**Committee Membership:**  
Resources Committee



Whilst my daughter was at the High School I was appointed Honorary Treasurer of the Aylesbury High School Association and held this position for ten years. In 1990 I was appointed as a Bucks County Council LEA Governor and chaired the Finance Committee (now Resources) for 20 years. I also served for 4 years as Vice Chairman of Governors.

As a beneficiary of a grammar school education myself, I was pleased that my son and daughter were also able to attend the grammar schools in Aylesbury. I am a firm believer in the selective system we have in Buckinghamshire, as I think aids social mobility and gives young people the opportunity to improve their chances in life. To this end I have always tried to ensure that the High School has the resources it needs to give the girls the high standard of education they deserve.

I worked in a bank for 37 years and after accepting early retirement I was employed part time for 22 years looking after the finances for a charity based in Aylesbury. I play tennis regularly each week and am an arm chair spectator of soccer, cricket and athletics.

**Name:** Gill Sharman  
**Governor type:**  
Parent  
**Initial appointment date:**  
7 December 15  
**Current term of office:**  
7 December 15 to 6 December 19  
**Committee membership:**  
Resources and Teaching & Learning  
**Governor Role:**  
Development Governor & Deputy  
Chair of T&L Committee



I became a parent governor when my daughter was in Year 10, having been a member of the AHSA since she joined in Year 7. From these two different perspectives, I have some idea of the amount of work that goes on 'behind the scenes' to ensure that the girls at AHS get the best out of their years at the school, both inside and outside the classroom - the number of different activities and events that are taking place at any one time is vast and is a credit to the commitment of the staff and students alike.

As a governor I hope I can make some contribution to supporting AHS as it continually strives to provide the very best education for each of its students.

I am an exams officer/data manager in an upper school in Central Bedfordshire.



# Aylesbury High School

**Name :** Kate Weir

**Governor type:**

Community (previously Parent)

**Initial Appointment Date :**

15 December 14

**Current term of office:**

4 December 17 to 3 December 21

**Committee Membership:**

Personnel Committee

**Governor role:**

Chair of the Personnel Committee

Member of the Academy Trust



I first became a Parent Governor in December 2014 when my daughter was in Year 9. We had been very impressed with the approach to education taken by the school and I decided that I would like to help in the school's continuing development.

I was educated at Mill Mount Grammar School in York and believe that the Grammar System benefited me both in terms of my academic achievement and as a rounded individual. I am

sure that the Grammar System and AHS in particular continues to provide these benefits to young people today.

**Name:** Lisa Westcott

**Governor Type:**

Staff

**Initial Appointment Date:**

7 December 15

**Current Term of Office:**

7 December 15 to 6 December 19

**Committee Membership:**

Personnel Committee



I have been a member of staff at Aylesbury High School since 2014 as the Student Welfare and Young Carer Coordinator. I have worked in Health and Education for over 20 years. I passionately believe that the wellbeing of students impacts greatly on their education and their ability to achieve their personal goals.

I became a Staff Governor two years ago because I wanted to learn more about how the school 'works' and to be involved in its evolution. In addition I want

to ensure that spotlight remains focused on student wellbeing.

**Name:** Antony Woods

**Governor Type:**

Parent

**Initial Appointment Date:**

4 Dec 2017

**Current Term of Office:**

4 Dec 2017 to 3 Dec 2021

**Committee Membership:**

Resources and Teaching & Learning



I became a Parent Governor in December 2017. At that time, I had a daughter who had just joined AHS in Year 7 and a daughter starting her A-levels in Year 12 who also joined the school in Year 7. I also have a son at AGS over the road so as a family we are fully committed to the grammar school system and the benefits such an education can bring.

I have spent most of my career in Strategy and Development roles in large international engineering companies. I started my working life in finance, having graduated in Classics from Cambridge University.

As a governor I hope to use my experience to support the continued and long term success of the school in maintaining the high quality of teaching and management to ensure all pupils achieve their full potential, both academically and in other facets of their life.

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