

## **GOVERNING BOARD PROFILES**

### **Ros Rochefort – Sponsor Governor and Chair of Governors**

I spent nearly 40 years working in education and have greatly enjoyed working with children and young people for even longer – I was first involved in voluntary youth work, aged 17. I taught in four different primary schools before becoming a Primary Headteacher, a role I enjoyed for 21 years, before my retirement. Having been a teacher, a staff governor and Headteacher, I can testify at first hand to the immense difference good governance can make, not only to the ethos, leadership and management of a school, but equally importantly to the lives of the individuals within a school community, whether Headteacher, staff or pupils. Throughout my career, I hugely benefited from some wonderfully supportive governors.

For me, the role of being a Governor at Aylesbury Vale Academy brings exciting opportunities to use some of my experience in a voluntary capacity and to work within an educational setting in a different context. In addition to this, I have time - a great luxury after so many years of full-time work. I am keen to support the school and its leadership, working together as a team to provide all the children and young people at AVA with a first class education.

### **Graham Dougall – Local Authority Governor**

I took a 1<sup>st</sup> degree in Psychology, and then spent my working life as a Human Resources Director working for Ford, Parker Hannifin and Honeywell in Europe, North and South America and Asia. I took early retirement, and retrained as a Sports Psychologist taking a Master's Degree at Brunel University. I then spent 10 years working with 16-18 year old boys trying to make it as professional footballers at a Premier League club (and how to become multi-millionaires!). My main emphasis was helping coaches understand how best the boys learn and the most appropriate teaching style. A lot of time was spent with helping those who were not going to achieve their goals as footballers, but had lots to offer in other fields.

I have been a Governor since 2017, and have special responsibilities for Sports Premium and Communication. It has been a tremendous time of achievement for AVA, and I look forward to helping continue the progress already made. I have learnt a tremendous amount working with a group of outstanding staff and fellow governors and I have been stimulated by the students' desire to learn and improve.

### **Charlotte James – Local Authority Governor**

As a parent of two children in the academy (both primary and secondary), the AVA plays a significant role in the education of my children and will do for years to come. As we all do, I want my children to have access to the best education possible and I am pleased to have the opportunity to play a part in developing the provision through the role of governor.

I trained as a teacher almost 20 years ago and have worked with children across the Early Years and Primary phase, specialising in supporting children with special needs and teaching in the Early Years. Prior to moving to Aylesbury, I enjoyed 9 years as the SENCO of a large school in Swindon, watching it grow within a new housing estate (similar to Berryfields), developing its provision to the level of 'outstanding' before relocating to enjoy a new challenge in Buckinghamshire. I have historically worked for the local

authority as a SEND Advisor, supporting local schools and EY settings to meet the needs of children with SEND. I currently work as an independent SEND Advocate, with specialist training in the fields of SEND specific legislation. Within the various roles I have held, I have experience of delivering educational training (with specialisms in Autism and Behaviour), mentoring teachers, supporting parents and working with other professional bodies.

Coming from a family of teachers, I hope to offer a balanced understanding of what we as parents hope for our children's education alongside the needs of the school and its staff.

### **Judith Morrey – Sponsor Governor**

I spent over 35 years working in education initially as a primary school teacher and then as an advisor for Early Years in Buckinghamshire. During that time, I also served as a staff governor and later a foundation governor in three schools. Since my retirement, I have volunteered in baby and toddler groups and, through the Aylesbury Church Network, as a town chaplain supporting in a child health clinic.

I believe that to ensure children achieve the very best they can, education needs to be a partnership between children, parents, teachers and the wider community. As a governor at AVA, I will endeavour to support all those working in the school in providing the very best education for all.

### **Robin Scott – Sponsor Governor and Vice Chair of Governors**

I am a retired Senior Educational Psychologist. I know about legislation to do with Education and have expertise in SEND. I have worked in a range of educational settings with children and young people from 0 to 25 years and their families. Previously I have been Headteacher of a large Primary School with a Nursery and then a Middle School. As Headteacher, I was part of the governing body of these schools. I have experience in school Finance including budget setting and monitoring, Personnel including recruitment, Curriculum Development, Development Planning for the school, Safeguarding children and young people, Risk Assessment, Health and Safety, and Performance Management. I am familiar with both capability procedure and legislation and practice around school exclusions. I have supported staff through a restructuring process. My first teaching role was in an inner city multi-cultural primary school in Nottingham. After being a class teacher, I trained as an English as a Second Language teacher. I am therefore keen in promoting success in a diverse school community.

I like children and young people, and see school as a vital part of their development. Good governance can contribute to a successful school by providing checks and balances that ensure the school functions well. I am keen to use my experience and skills within my local community in a voluntary capacity. I have energy, and like working as part of a team. I have good interpersonal skills, and I am comfortable in a range of social situations. I am a Christian, and following my second stint as Church Warden, I am continuing in my role as the PCC Secretary.

### **Sally Waugh – Sponsor Governor**

For most of my working life, I have been involved with training or education in some form and I have experience of teaching at primary, secondary and university levels. I have always been interested in how people learn things, and trying to enable students (children and adults) to find ways of learning which give them access to new fields of study, or to new opportunities in the work place. Before moving to Aylesbury I particularly enjoyed 15 years as a lead teacher and mentor in a special needs department helping students work towards GCSE and A level grades that they had previously thought would be beyond their expectations.

I am currently an advisor for creating teaching and learning schemes for schools and universities. At the moment I specialise in preparing students for the transition between school and university. I work on

several projects which provide guidance and study materials to help students (at school and university) to prepare for new courses so that they extract the maximum from their studies.

My motivation to help people tackle difficulties and find ways through their problems comes from my Christian faith. My concern is that every individual should have the opportunity to achieve, and to become the very best that they can be, and to feel happy and fulfilled by that. In my time at AVA, I hope that I will contribute to all members of the AVA community feeling encouraged and supported in working towards being the best that they can be.

### **James Wallace – Parent Governor**

With four children attending Aylesbury Vale Academy primary and secondary phases, I am well placed to understand the challenges, concerns and difficulties parents in my local community may experience. I am privileged to be in a position that can influence and support every child's education and wellbeing and take this responsibility very seriously.

Since 2011 I have worked within management positions and successfully progressed my career over the past 10 years to my current role as UK Fire & Emergency Training & Logistics Manager. I have extensive experience supporting senior management teams and managing compliance, policies & procedures, financial control and budget management. All these strengths are transferable and will support my role as Parent Governor.

Having the opportunity to positively impact the education of children within my local community is very exciting and I truly believe that I have the qualities to help make a difference. I am always approachable to parents with the ability to think and listen impartially but also respect the confidentiality of any situation.

### **Lauren Fincher – Co-opted Governor**

I am currently a Civil Servant working in the Home Office as a Deputy Chief of Staff. Prior to this role, I worked in the Department for Education (DfE) for six years. I worked in the Academies Programme/Regional Delivery Directorate as Private Secretary to the National Schools Commissioner, Dominic Herrington. I have also worked in various other roles within Academies, notably as Private Secretary to the NWLSC Regional Schools Commissioner, Martin Post.

From my time working in DfE, I have learnt a huge amount about the way academies and schools are run and the difficulties some face. From supporting Dominic Herrington, I have learnt the importance of working with school leaders, teachers and governors in order to achieve the best education system possible for all children in England. I worked in DfE during the Covid pandemic - hearing and seeing some of the adversities that many schools faced across the country - and ones that some schools are just coming out of. From working in DfE, I have a good understanding of how academies are governed and how they need to align to national education policy more generally.

In addition, I also attended both primary (Haydon Abbey) and secondary school (The Grange School) in Aylesbury within the last ten years. This gives me a good understanding of other schools in the local area and I feel I can relate to the pupils at Aylesbury Vale Academy.

I am very keen in being a governor / trustee as I feel I have knowledge and skills to bring, in order to support a school or academy.