

AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GOVERNING BODY PROFILES



Richard Williams, Appointed Governor, Chairman of Governors



I am an appointed governor. I put myself forward for appointment by the Governing Body in September 2013. I am married to Helen (who used to be on the PTA Committee) and have lived in Wendover since 1998. I have 3 sons one of whom was at AGS leaving in 2015. I am chairman of the Resources including Finance Committee. Both my parents were involved in education for many years as teacher and governor respectively and I am a firm believer in the huge importance of learning and education. Being a governor enables me to contribute to it. I have been a partner in London in the international law firm, Pinsent Masons, for over 20 years and specialise in dealing with project risk issues. I have worked on many of the major UK projects of the last 25 years and also globally on a range of infrastructure developments. In my limited spare time I enjoy walking (with my dog) sport (more watching than playing now) and spending holiday time on the North Wales coast.

Kevin Hardern, Foundation Governor



I have lived in Aylesbury since 1987, my two sons came through AGS in 1990s. I was elected as a Parent Governor then and since have served as Chairman for eight years, currently I am a Foundation governor. I am a member of the three main subcommittees. I was recently asked to join the Governing Body of Bearbrook Combined school for an initial year which I was happy to do. I have a strong drive that we should ensure every child achieves their potential during their education. I worked in computers and project management in financial services up to 2004, since then have run my own consulting company. I am a Board member of Young Enterprise locally and am responsible for property management and volunteers at Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre.

Michael Brock, Co-opted Governor



After graduating in Business Administration from Loughborough University, the first seven years of my working life were spent in HR in the dairy industry. After that I held various operational and general management roles whilst working in private industry for Unigate, Dairy Crest, Biffa Waste Services and ADT Fire and Security. During the latter part of this time with ADT, I trained in Six Sigma and became a business performance improvement consultant, a role which I continued in the final years of my working life at the Open University.

I retired at the end of 2014, became a parent governor earlier that year and sit on the Resources including Finance committee. Born and raised in Aylesbury and one of three brothers all of whom are former students of the school, I am passionate about both the school and the vital nature of a high quality education.

I am a father of two, a keen Chelsea fan and a music lover.

Narendra Laljani, Appointed Governor and Chairman of Learning & Teaching Committee



I am a management educator and consultant, and am passionate about making a positive impact on individuals and organisations. I have worked in the higher education sector for over 20 years, and was Dean of Graduate Studies at Ashridge Business School until July 2015. Prior to taking up an academic career in 1995 I worked for ICI, the chemical multinational, in a range of international general management roles. I studied economics and management at university, and earned my doctorate in business administration from Cranfield University. I follow cricket, am a keen photographer, and enjoy cooking Indian food.

Jim Collins, Foundation Governor



I am a Foundation Governor and currently Chairman of Governors. My association with Aylesbury Grammar School started in 1969, going through seven happy years at the school before going up to Cambridge to study Natural Sciences in 1977. I rejoined the school community as a Parent Governor while my two sons were at the school, and was impressed that the standards and ethos were as high as ever - the main changes I noticed is that the technology is more advanced and most of the teachers are now much younger.

I am an actuary by profession, working with a relatively new insurance company in the middle of the City of London. This keeps me busy and out of trouble, but provides many opportunities for enjoying music and theatre across the capital. At the same time, over the years I've learned how to relax on the commute so that I can enjoy the benefits of living in the Chilterns to the full. Having spent most of my life in and around the Vale of Aylesbury, I know all the main cycling routes, and continue to enjoy the flatter ones on a regular basis.

These days, though, my participation in team sports is limited to being a season ticket holder at Wycombe Wanderers.

As a beneficiary of the grammar school system, it will be no surprise to learn that I wholeheartedly support it and the opportunities it offers. Being a governor these days comes with a lot of responsibility and is very time consuming, especially with the funding constraints under which the school has to operate, but I feel privileged still to be able to play my part in one of the finest schools in the country.

Jo Dennis, Appointed Governor



A governor for 18 years and past pupil of the school, both my sons attended AGS and I was chair of the fund raising committee.

I was asked by a past head, Ian Roe, to set up a school uniform shop to raise much needed funds. I have done this for 16 years and now the operation has been taken over by the school and on-line shopping introduced. It is an excellent service and has provided money for numerous school improvements.

I am a qualified teacher but have digressed into the business world through retail shops, nursing homes, a day nursery and restaurants. I have been dedicated to school improvements and chaired the premises committee for several years. I am now involved with safeguarding and child protection which is so important in today's world.

I remain committed to retaining the high standards of excellence at AGS.

Mr Chris King, Staff Governor



I joined AGS in 2008 as Data Manager, a role which now encompasses Examinations and Data Protection. After a 22 year Local Government career in Finance and Revenues, I took the opportunity to qualify as a Teacher of Adults and also became an NVQ Assessor in IT and Administration before managing two Adult Learning Centres for Northampton College in Brackley and Towcester.

For many years I was a member of St John Ambulance which included teaching first aid to members of the public and at schools and also the Church Warden for our village church. I am currently a Trustee for our village pre-school. I have four children and have always been involved in their school's PTA and was PTA treasurer for 12 years. As a parent, I am very keen that all children have a chance to maximise their potential at whatever level and, as a Governor, help the school continue with its high level of education and pastoral care.

Paul Bown, Foundation Governor



I have been a Governor at AGS since 1998 and became a Foundation Governor and Trustee in 2007. I attended AGS as a pupil from 1962 to 1969 before going to Manchester University where I graduated with degree in Economics.

My business career has largely been involved in the property industry. I spent 27 years with Connells Estate Agents with the last 10 years (up to 2000) as Chairman and I currently own and run Waterside Investments, Chearsley Developments, and Chain-Movers all of which deal with various aspects of Property investment and development.

Over the last 15 years, I have also taken on board non-executive/part time assignments, largely on behalf of Venture Capitalists. These include Executive Chairman of Bennetts Insurance Brokers, Director of Luxury Productions (Film production company which produced the Luxury Travel show for Sky TV) Chairman and part owner of P & A Music Productions.

My outside interests include Lions Club International (Past President of the Bicester club) skiing, golf, classical music, the theatre, foreign travel and global stock markets. I live with my wife Elaine in Chearsley, our 2 children Jeremy (who attended AGS as a pupil 1995 to 2001) and Lucy having now flown the nest.

As a Foundation Governor and Trustee, I take a very keen interest in the School's property development matters and the investment performance of the Foundation's investment funds.

Wing Commander Lee Cobley, Foundation Governor



Born at RAF Halton, Lee Cobley attended Aylesbury Grammar School from 1969 to 1976. He read Mechanical Engineering at Bristol University and worked as a design engineer at Molins, Saunderton, for 2 years. He then taught technical English in Finland and Japan, and Maths in East Sussex before joining the Royal Air Force in 1986 as an Education & Training Officer.

In 23 years' service he instructed RAF personnel in Maths, Engineering, Leadership and English, has served in overseas Education Centres in Cyprus and Holland, and mentored the Iraqi Forces in Baghdad, returning home in early 2008. Based at RAF High Wycombe for his final Regular tour, he had Headquarters responsibility for Training, Education and Development across the RAF. Retiring in February 2010, he immediately

joined the Full Time Reserve Service and has been coordinating the RAF training of UK Defence Contractors for the past 6 years.

Married with 3 grown-up children, one of whom also attended AGS, his hobbies include squash, gardening and voluntary work. Always keen to support the school, Lee joined the AGS Science Campaign in 2010, becoming Chairman in 2015 for the final Phase 7, to complete the refurbishment of the 15 science labs. This year, Lee became a Trustee and Foundation Governor of the school.

Andrea Ward, Parent Governor, Vice Chairman of Governors



I am the mother of two boys at AGS, in years 8 and 11. After a degree in finance I began my banking career with Lehman Brothers and managed private equity as well as media and technology transactions. For the last 15 years I have designed and delivered bespoke training programmes to the investment banking industry and related sectors. I am also an associate lecturer on corporate finance and related topics at Oxford Brookes University.

I am passionate about education and learning. My experience as a finance trainer has given me an invaluable insight into learning and into the importance of real life skills. I share our boys' enthusiasm for all of the opportunities AGS provides; the dedication of the teachers and staff; and am committed to ensuring the school maintains its position as a leading grammar school.

Simon Winman, Co-opted Governor



Simon ended his 11 year teaching career where he started it at Aylesbury Grammar School, having spent 4 years at Exeter University. Simon has since worked for the Rugby Football Union for 17 years and is the Head of Club Development, responsible for the retention, recruitment and recognition of volunteers, facility investment and improving the leadership, management and governance of clubs and CBs.

He has been responsible for the facility investment programme at the RFU from its inception in 2003 following the Rugby World Cup success to its current position where it has invested £69m, generating investment of over £200m in a range of grass roots club facilities. The RFU is now midway through an ambitious 4 year programme to invest £60m in 100 artificial grass pitches across the country.

Simon was appointed Head of Club Development at the RFU in January 2012, responsible for supporting all clubs in England to be ready to host the Rugby World Cup in 2015, and with specific responsibility for 'off field' work – inspiring people to volunteer, improving club and businesses and investing in facilities. He is currently leading the development of a ground-breaking volunteer leadership programme to support volunteers in clubs and counties. The RFU is working with the Ashridge-Hult Business School to develop the next generation of senior game leaders.

Simon played rugby for a number of years (including Exeter University and Exeter and Aylesbury) but then found he was a better coach, and went on to coach Oxford University.

