

Governors 2018-19

Ian Barham (Chair)



Ian has established a reputation for making things happen in Buckinghamshire since first arriving in the county almost 25 years ago. This has led to his current role as Partnership Manager for the Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership where he is responsible for managing relationships with key national and local stakeholders to support inward investment and business growth in the county.

Ian took on the challenge of managing Buckinghamshire's preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, a challenge he relished. Ian helped make Dorney Lake the most popular of all of the Games venues and Stoke Mandeville the most successful of all international training camp destinations, and helped Buckinghamshire businesses secure over £70 million in Games related contracts. Following the Games he helped secure a permanent Olympic legacy for Buckinghamshire with Stoke Mandeville's position as the Birthplace of the Paralympic Movement now to be celebrated every two years as the only permanent location in the lighting of the Paralympic Flame.

It was in this role that Ian first worked with the College and inspired by the excellent curriculum offer, quality of teaching and ambitious growth plans volunteered to take on the role of Governor.

Max Hailey (Vice Chair)



Max is the Managing Director of Mix 96 which is part of UKRD group – The Sunday Times number one best company to work for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

He is passionate about creating a great place to work and developing people within a values based organisation.

Max is a Chartered Marketer, Governor of the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust and a Governor of North Marston primary school.

Karen Mitchell



Karen is the Principal and Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire College Group. Karen has a strong leadership and management background in Further Education holding a number of senior positions including Vice Principal and Director of Quality. Prior to her time in Further Education Karen worked as a nurse practitioner and manager for 17 years in the Health Service.

Karen is a passionate supporter of inclusive learning in Vocational Education and Training. Her focus is on leading an outstanding student experience which prepares students of all ages and abilities to realise their ambition and achieve long term success in work and life. She strongly believes that Further Education should be at the heart of the community, transforming lives and driving economic and social success.

Ian Harper



Ian has worked in education and training since 1996. His graduate training programme at Harrods began in retail but moved into training when the business overhauled its induction and other training programmes. Fourteen years at ATG Training in Aylesbury followed, during which time Ian worked on the various incarnations of apprenticeships and in a wide range of sectors, whilst simultaneously taking advantage of the training and support provided by the company. After almost ten years at ATG, he became its Chief Executive, a post he held for four years before joining Buckinghamshire College Group and Bucks New University's BEST partnership to oversee the development of University Campus Aylesbury Vale. Having been educated then lived and worked in Aylesbury for most of his life, Ian understands the educational and training landscape in the region. Ian has volunteered as a Business Advisor for Young Enterprise and is a Governor at his old primary school, Elmhurst School.

Rabia Bhatti



Rabia is a student at the University of London where she is studying Politics, Philosophy and History and is also one of the youngest councillors in the country. Among her other roles, she is an executive member of the Chiltern Racial Equality Council, an Ambassador for the International NGO the Hashoo Foundation, a speaker for the Prince's Charity Mosaic and the first Conservative Future Political Chairman for Chesham, Amersham and Beaconsfield.

Lina Ghosh



Lina has recently retired as Head of Learning & Skills & Employment for HM Prison Service in Aylesbury where she was responsible for the management, promotion, development and coordination of all learning and skills activities. Prior to that Lina was a Director for Wycombe Race Equality Council where she worked in partnership with the police, probation services and local employers. Lina has an MA in journalism, a BA (Hons) in English Literature and other significant qualifications. Lina is very active within the community as not only a Governor at Buckinghamshire College Group, but also a Trustee of Queens Park Arts Centre and Founder of weekly Sunday evening Youth Engagement project for 12-16 year olds.

Anne-Marie McNeill (Staff Governor)



Anne-Marie has worked at the College for almost 14 years in the role of Senior Human Resources Business Partner and is a Chartered Member of the CIPD. She has lived most of her life in Aylesbury and prior to working for the College worked for Nestle, Weight Watchers UK and Serco Leisure. Anne-Marie works closely with the local community and her hobbies include cooking, creative arts and reading.

Jackie Campbell



Jackie is an experienced marketing professional, entrepreneur, project manager and trainer.

Since May 2015, Jackie has been the Skills Development Manager for Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, developing the skills agenda for Bucks focussing on key economic growth sectors in an ever-changing environment which includes the technical education reforms, apprenticeship reforms and the industrial strategy white paper.

As part of the role she has been responsible for setting up and establishing the Bucks Skills Hub, where the remit is to bridge the gap between education and employment to improve the work preparedness of young people.

CIM qualified and having run her own design agency in London's Charlotte Street for five years, she was also the Business Enterprise Manager and qualified tutor to adults and 16-18 year olds at the Peter Jones Enterprise Academy from 2010-2015.

Edward Weiss



Edward Weiss, by training a chartered accountant, has recently completed two non-executive appointments, one with an NHS Foundation Trust and one with a Government Commission, the Security Industry Authority. Prior to this he was a member of the Criminal Cases Review Commission dealing with alleged or suspected miscarriages of justice. Edward Weiss has also been a non-executive director of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

Prior to taking up these appointments Edward Weiss was Chairman of certain Loss Reviews at Lloyd's of London and on Lloyd's Corporate Finance Panel. He was a main board director of Chubb Security, Lindustries and Drake & Cubitt in each case being Finance Director.

Within the Institute of Chartered Accountants, he was Chair of the Pensions and Euro Committees and Deputy Chairman of the Business Law Committee. He was on one of the Treasury's Euro Advisory Committees. He now sits on the ACCA's disciplinary panel.

David Bainton



David has run his own business for over 20 years working with large companies in the private sector, with major government departments and the NHS on performance improvement, business restructuring and culture change. Previously he held senior roles in both Human Resources and General Management with blue chip companies. He is a qualified Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma, a Fellow of the institute of Personnel and Development and a member of the British Psychological Society.

He is keen to ensure students are prepared for the changing challenges they face after leaving college.

His main outside interests are golf, gym, football and military history.

David previously served as a Governor of Amersham and Wycombe College where he was Chair of the Finance and Recovery Committee and the governor representative on the college Health and Safety Committee.

Carolyn Guildford



Carolyn currently works for Grant Thornton in Oxford as an auditor of financial statements. She is often remembered for her contagious laugh, but it is her drive and passion for encouraging others to excel that really defines her. Currently mentoring entrepreneurs at Oxford Brookes University, Carolyn uses her commercial knowledge combined with qualifications and experience in accountancy and audit to enable others to reach their full potential.

She is particularly excited about being a governor for the inspiring and ambitious Buckinghamshire College Group.

Nigel Sims



Nigel is passionate about individual wellbeing and especially social inclusion and social justice. Nigel has been working at Bucks County Council in a senior management capacity for 11 years and leads what could be seen as the council's social inclusion work, having originally worked in the area of economic development. Nigel is the Head of Community Wellbeing and Safety. This work covers liaison with Thames Valley Police and close working with Department of Work and Pensions to help residents who face the greatest barriers gain employment via innovative approaches to intervention and support. Prior to working in Buckinghamshire Nigel worked across Thames Valley for the NHS in his role as Associate Director of Urgent Care at the Strategic Health Authority.

Nigel's ambition is to help Buckinghamshire College Group to support all students to achieve their best, no matter what their background.



Julie Gillespie (Staff Governor)

Julie has worked at the College for 15 years, initially in a teaching role and now as Curriculum Manager for Creative and Digital Arts. She has lived around the area for most of her life. Prior to working for the College, she has worked in the creative industries, and is a great supporter of finding young people opportunities for employment in the creative industries around the area. Julie works closely with the local community on a variety of projects and her hobbies include making jewellery, reading and photography.