

Governors 2019-20



Ian Barham (Chair)

Ian has established a reputation for making things happen in Buckinghamshire since first arriving in the county almost 30 years ago. This has led to his current role as Partnership Manager for the Buckinghamshire 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.

Prior to this Ian took on the challenge of managing Buckinghamshire's preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and had previously played a leading role in developing sporting, cultural and tourism strategies and programmes across Buckinghamshire.



Max Hailey (Vice Chair)

Max is the Managing Director of Mix 96 – the local commercial radio station for Buckinghamshire and has worked in media for over 25 years. He is also the Chair of the Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership – an organisation that brings the public and private sector together and sits as a member of the Buckinghamshire Creative Industries Sector Action Group.

Previous roles have included governance within the NHS and primary education.

Max is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management, Chartered Institute of Marketing and the Royal Society of the Arts.



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, initially for a major retailer in London and then for 14 years at a private apprenticeship training provider in Buckinghamshire. In 2014 he joined Buckinghamshire College Group and Bucks New University's partnership to oversee the development of University Campus Aylesbury Vale and now works for the university as its Commercial Director and Director of Apprenticeships. Having been educated in Bucks and then having lived and worked in the county for most of his life, Ian understands the educational and training landscape in the region.

Ty Slocombe



Anne-Marie McNeill (Staff Governor)

Anne-Marie has worked at the College for 15 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. She is also an experienced chocolatier.



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.



Andra Mirica

Andra is a full time student at Amersham Campus, studying Level 3 Graphic Design. In her spare time she enjoys photography and illustration making.



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 has also been a non-executive director of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

Prior to taking up these appointments Edward 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.

Edward was previously Chair of Amersham and Wycombe College Corporation and is now a Governor and Chair of the Audit Committee of Buckinghamshire College Group.



David Bainton

David has run his own business for over 25 years working with large companies in the private sector, government departments and the NHS on performance improvement, business restructuring and leading 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 and a member of the British Psychological Society.

David previously served as a Governor of Amersham and Wycombe College and is currently Chair of the College Remuneration Committee.

He is keen to ensure students are prepared for the challenges they face in their lives and in the workplace after leaving college.

His main outside interests revolve around sport. He is a keen student of military history and is learning to play the guitar.



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.



Nick Bevan

Nick recently retired from the post of Pro Vice-Chancellor, Director of Library and Student Support at Middlesex University, where he led a service that integrated generic front-line support with in-depth help from specialist student advice teams covering library and learning enhancement, student progression, IT support, money and visa issues, disability and dyslexia, and counselling and mental health. He led the project to create UniHelp (the campus-wide student help desk) and chaired the group that delivered the sector-leading personal eTextbooks for student projects. During his tenure, the University was shortlisted three times for a Times Higher Education award for activities and projects managed by his team.

After completing an MSc in History of Political Thought, Nick qualified as a professional librarian and worked in a variety of higher education institutions before joining Middlesex. Whilst Director of Library Services at Brunel University he was nominated for a National Teaching Fellowship and appointed Hon Chair of the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries.

Nick has contributed to a number of professional publications and presented at conferences and workshops. In his leisure time he enjoys reading, early cinema, music, cooking and occasional creative writing.

Amir Khaki

Amir is an Organisational Psychologist with over 10 years of experience in the NHS. Currently working as the Deputy Director of HR, Organisational Development and Education at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust. Additionally he has worked with multinational organisations such as Xerox, KPMG and PA Consulting, national organisations, such as British Steel Corporation and Voluntary sector and regional organisations such as local authorities & colleges of further education.

His passion is supporting & developing people in their workplace. He is an accomplished leader with many management and senior management roles and qualifications including MSc. Occupational Psychology, PGCE in Adult Education, PG Diploma in Leadership & Management, PRINCE2 Practitioner, Green Belt in Lean Six Sigma, BPS assessments Level A & B qualified, Qualified executive Coach.

