



2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Election of Parent Governors**

Further to our invitation for nominations to fill two Parent Governor vacancies on the Local Governing Body (LGB), I am pleased to have received eight nominations. The role of a governor is extremely important and many essential decisions about Riddlesdown Collegiate are taken by the LGB. Governors work together with the Principal and Senior Leadership Team to continually improve the education for our students and so I am grateful to those who have indicated that they would be willing to serve.

Riddlesdown Collegiate LGB has two Parent Governor vacancies. All parents of current students have a vote which I hope you will use. Governors will serve for 4 years. Attached are the personal statements from the candidates. Please read the personal statements carefully and, bearing in mind the role of the governor and the needs of the LGB, you are asked to vote for two governors. Voting can be accessed via the Google form [HERE](#).

Voting will end on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 10.00am. Votes will be counted and the new parent governors will be announced shortly afterwards.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dey  
Principal



## **Candidate – William Burton**

### Personal Statement

*Why I would like to become a parent governor: -*

I am currently a Co-opted Governor of Beaumont Primary School in Coulsdon which is the school that both of my children attended before coming to Riddlesdown Collegiate. I serve on the Curriculum and Standards committee with a particular responsibility for the teaching of mathematics and enjoy the role of being part of a team that ensures educational and other standards are maintained. I have both observed lessons and also given a 40 minute lesson aimed at connecting the subjects taught to year five with real world careers so that the students could make connections between learning and their future working lives.

I spent 10 years as a teacher of English as a Foreign Language to adults both in the UK and Spain. This culminated in running a Nord Anglia summer school in London with responsibility for student safety, teaching performance and organising outings. Through the summer we had 300 children and adults attend the school from all over the world.

I have worked in the training and development field for the last 20 years and specialise in working with senior teams of SMEs. Part of this has involved dispute resolution at board level and presenting to hostile audiences. I regularly incorporate HR policies into the training programmes I design, such as recruitment and interviewing skills.

From 2013 – 2015 I volunteered as a Young Enterprise business coach and was assigned to Dartford Grammar School for Girls where I mentored several start-up businesses, all of which made a healthy profit! In particular I worked with them on their presentations prior to the regional competition finals. Mostly recently I have been a judge on the “Speak Out!” challenge sponsored by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

I currently work for Dale Carnegie Inc. which is a global training company specialising in training adults in the areas of communication, presentation, sales, leadership and people development. We work with businesses, charities and county councils all over the south-east of England.

My DBS certification is up-to-date.



## **Candidate – Newinderpersad Ganpat**

### Personal Statement

*Why I would like to become a parent governor: -*

Having worked in finance for the last 23 years I would be able to share my skills to the benefit of a school which has proven to be an excellent choice for my children.

This role of parent governor would be a chance for me to be involved in the education of children and help the next generation by focusing on strategic goals.

Currently I am running a website for coding as I understand the importance of online education is getting bigger. Education is an area that will need more support and attention to help this generation post-COVID.

For the last three years I have been a trustee for anti-human trafficking charity, which has given me lot of experience of understanding organisational priorities on a long-term basis.



## **Candidate – Amanda Handley**

### Personal Statement

*Why I would like to become a parent governor: -*

I have been a Primary School Teacher for 23 years and, during that time, have been in charge of Design Technology, Maths and Science. I have also been on the Senior Leadership Team of an 'outstanding school' in Dulwich Village.

During my time in Education, I have worked in five different schools across the boroughs of Croydon, Bromley, Southwark and Sutton and accumulated a wealth of experience in various practices and procedures. For the last seven years I have worked for Harris Academy, teaching Year 6 pupils and preparing them for their end of KS2 SATs examinations.

Four years ago I was elected to be a Teacher Governor at my current school and this is a position that I still hold. I have come to realise the importance of the Governing Body and the impact that an efficient and cohesive group of people can have on the smooth running of a school. In the primary sector, the governors discuss a range of important topics including the following: school finances, curriculum, building works, progress, number and range of children on roll and SATs results.

Both of my children attend Riddlesdown; they are happy and achieving good results. My eldest son has chosen to stay on and attend the Sixth Form and this is testament to the strong and efficient way that Riddlesdown is run and organised. I believe that I am in a strong position to be able to add value to the Governing Body and also learn a lot from the secondary sector.



## **Candidate – Shujah Iqbal**

### Personal Statement

*Why I would like to become a parent governor:*

Despite being a busy working dad, I have always made it also prioritised forging strong links with my children's schools and the school communities. I believe the saying that; "it takes a whole village to raise a child", and feel that this sentiment also applies perfectly to what it takes to educate young people within a school community of students, staff and families – with the larger community setting of the locality.

I would like to serve the school community by contributing some of my relevant skills and experiences.

Over my career, I have worked in policy, equality and transformation roles. I was also formerly an Ofsted project manager too and have experience of delivering outcomes for communities and young people.

I have also been a school governor before - for over 3 years - I was a member of attainment, IT and resources committees and attended governor training.

Moreover, I am confident that my professional knowledge of equalities, policy, local stakeholders and communities could benefit the school immensely. I am also involved in local events and issues including Park Run, local economic development & regeneration and green issues.

If am selected, I will be delighted to share my professional expertise and knowledge with the collegiate.

On a personal level, being a parent makes me want to engage with the next generation. I have high learning expectations for young people and want them to thrive in extracurricular activity, school and larger community. I would be proud to serve Riddlesdown and the local community in recognition of the truly fantastic education which is being provided to our young people every day.



## **Candidate – Paul James**

### Personal Statement

*Why I would like to become a parent governor: -*

I have served as a governor at Gresham Primary school for many years and believe I have contributed effectively throughout this time, including through an inspection, recruitment of the current head teacher and dealing with a parent complaint. As a governor I contribute to discussions and provide critical, but friendly challenge where needed.

I am currently Director of HR at an independent school in South London, and have worked in education for over 14 years, so I believe I would be able to add value to Riddlesdown governing body with both my HR expertise and knowledge of the education sector. I am very used to working with school leaders and providing challenge and support.

The past year has brought unprecedented change. Having been at the forefront of supporting my current school through the pandemic with everything HR related, I believe I can contribute to the Riddlesdown governing body.

I would particularly like to become a parent governor at Riddlesdown as having two children who currently attend the Collegiate, has given me insight into the workings of the school, and I have been very impressed with what I have seen.



## **Candidate – Graham Jennings**

### Personal Statement

*Why I would like to become a parent governor: -*

I am the father of Sophie a Year 7 pupil in Orion. I have worked as an educational support professional for the past 15 years. 12+ years in the HE sector and now 2+ years in the FE sector. I was a Governor at Greenvale Primary School for 6 years holding various committee roles and for 18 months a Governor at Quest Academy. Currently my job title is Head of Data Compliance (I am the Data Protection Officer) and Business Planning which means I am responsible for Data Protection, Risk Management and Strategy Executive at the college where I work. Over the years I have both given reports and updates to the board and received updates from staff as a Governor depending on which side of the table I have been sitting.

Why do I want to be a parent governor at Riddlesdown? I have a passion for education and in particular life long learning, I hold two master degrees and various professional/academic certificates. I want to use my knowledge and experience to encourage and, where appropriate, challenge others to ensure that learners receive the best education that is possible at this critical first stage of their educational journey.

My special interests are in digital learning and the issues surrounding the digital divide and opportunity for all (I attend educational technology trade shows as part of my job) as well as sustainability – equipping students to thrive in a world where climate change will have an ever increasing impact.

I can offer a broad range of management skills but my strengths lie in compliance, risk and audit and a pretty good understanding of quality management.



## **Candidate – Diahanne Rhiney**

### Personal Statement

*Why I would like to become a parent governor: -*

As a parent education is vitally important to children and the wider community. With over 5 years previous experience as parent governor overseeing SENCO and further board experience as a trustee of the BME Forum in Croydon, sitting on the finance, media and safeguarding committees.

As a child psychologist, I feel I can increase the effectiveness of the current board having dealt with children and young people with challenging and complexed needs for over 15 years.

I know the importance and legal responsibility as a parent governor and I am used to dealing with different stakeholders such as the council, local authority and social services.

I am also a foster carer with over 10 years' service and have worked with some of the hardest to reach young people with a successful record of positive outcomes for the young people.

I have an enhanced DBS and as an employer have experience and knowledge of HR.

I believe local governing bodies are essential to the success of a school and would love to be a part of the school's success and add any value I can, especially within my area of expertise. I am well versed in diversity and inclusion and have a sound knowledge of the 9 protected characteristics. In these unprecedented times I believe the LGB will play a key part of the smooth transition out of lockdown and Covid19.

I am a dedicated individual and a team player with great commitment to any task or position I am assigned. I am a big believer that all children deserve the right to fair access to education and that schools are core to a community.





## **Candidate – Ahmar Syed**

### Personal Statement

*Why I would like to become a parent governor: -*

My motivation to become a parent governor is based on my desire to contribute to a school attended by my two daughters, currently in year 10 and year 8. The teachers, tutors and other support staff at the school have always been hugely sensitive to the academic and pastoral care of my daughters and I would be delighted to be more actively involved with the school.

I have over 20 years of experience in leadership roles in the UK, US and Switzerland having worked for many of the largest global banks including as Director. I am currently working for technology company in the City of London as a Senior Programme Manager.

My job involves management and execution of multi-million pound projects for large banks. There are multiple layers of governance and oversight including legal, procurement and regulatory frameworks, in some cases from multiple governing bodies. The ability to understand, implement and demonstrate compliance of these complex requirements is, I believe, a key transferable skillset for this role.

I would relish the opportunity to see and contribute to the continued success of the school by representing Riddlesdown at the Local Governance Body for the next few years.