

## **STEVE BARKER – Community Governor and Chair of the Governing Board**

Steve has been a Governor at Collingwood since 2000 and is also Chair of the Governing Board at Bagshot Infant School and a Member of the EEEA Multi-Academy Trust. Steve lives with his wife, who is a teacher, in Bagshot and all four of their sons attended Collingwood.

Steve began his career in marketing and advertising, working in a variety of roles with Boots, Gillette, Proctor and Gamble and Henkel. He combined his career in marketing with voluntary work as a Governor and through this became involved in Governor training and development and also served as an Ofsted inspector. His current role is Head of the Governance Services for Strictly Education.

He was one of the first National Leaders of Governance to be appointed and has provided support, advice and guidance to Governing Bodies in other schools throughout the South East of England in this role. He has a national profile in Governance and is a regular speaker at national conferences and is a member of the board of the National Association of Governance Advisory Services.

Steve is also a trustee and CEO of Harry and Ed's Aspiration Raising Trust (HEART) a local charity supporting children and young people, including many at Collingwood, to raise their aspirations and realise their full potential in life.

## **JOHN WELCH – Parent Governor and Vice Chair of the Governing Board**

John has been a Parent Governor at Collingwood since November 2013 and currently chairs the Curriculum Development Committee and is Vice Chair of the Full Governing Board. He previously served for 8 years at Heather Ridge Infant School. John's two daughters attended Collingwood and are pursuing their careers and his son is currently at the College. Following an MChem in Chemistry and DPhil in Magnetic Resonance from the University of Oxford, John moved to Camberley with his wife in 2000 to take up a Software Engineering post where he still works. John has particular interests in Maths, Science and IT.

## **KAREN WATLING – Principal – Staff Governor**

Karen has been teaching for over thirty years and joined Collingwood College in 1999 as Head of Mathematics. She is passionate about teaching Mathematics and making a positive difference in the classroom. She has been in the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for over twenty years and Karen is proud to say she is the only member of the team who has experienced all the SLT roles and responsibilities across the College!

Following 18 months as Acting Principal, Karen was delighted to be appointed by the Governing Board as Principal in July 2024. Karen feels privileged to be given such a significant responsibility and is proud to be taking over such a high performing school where she whole heartedly believes in the Collingwood motto, 'Believe Succeed'. Karen continually strives for excellence in all that she does and has completed her National Professional Qualification In Headship (NPQH) and is working towards her NPQEL qualification.

## **MARK ZYMELA – Community Governor**

Mark was elected as a Parent Governor in November 2008. Before joining the Governing Board at Collingwood, Mark spent 5 years as a Governor of Prior Heath Infants School. At the end of his term of office at the College in the autumn 2012, Mark was appointed as Community Governor. In his time at Collingwood, he has chaired the Curriculum Development and Resources Committees. Mark's two

daughters attended the College and are now both University graduates. Mark was a qualified Project Manager working for a global technology company before he retired in 2019. He is now a voluntary adviser for Surrey Heath Citizens Advice, and a volunteer for a UK cancer charity. Mark is also a Trustee of Camberley U3A and enjoys playing sport.

### **EDWINA BRIDLE – Community Governor**

Edwina was elected as a Parent Governor in December 2007 and appointed as Community Governor in January 2010. She has had two children at the College, the eldest works for Network Rail as a signaller and the youngest graduated from Birmingham University. The family have a wholesale nursery business in Windlesham, which Edwina co-directs with her husband. It is a long-established family business and they employ from the local community, including students from Collingwood College. Edwina is a Bachelor of Science and, prior to running the business, Edwina worked in further education in Kent, lecturing in soil science and horticulture at the County Agricultural College. She provides training within the Horticultural Society and is an Apprenticeship Champion for this sector. Edwina is also Link Governor for SEN, Careers and Health & Safety.

### **MARIAN RAINE – Community Governor**

Marian was appointed to the Governing Board in the spring of 2015. She worked for BOC Gases until 1987 and then completed her PGCE and joined Collingwood as a teacher of Business Studies. Marian remained at the College for 25 years. An advocate of vocational education, Curriculum development and inter school collaboration, she progressed from Head of Department and joined the Senior Leadership Team with responsibility for Specialist School status and co-ordination of the SHAPE network. Marian retired from Collingwood in 2012 and from the network role in 2016.

### **CHRIS RICHARDS – Community Governor**

Chris was appointed as a Community Governor in November 2021. Chris lives about 15 minutes away towards Woking and is currently a Curriculum Lead for an online AI educational learning platform. He was previously an Assistant Head in a secondary school in Croydon responsible for Curriculum, Assessment, Examinations and timetabling among many other hats. He has also previously been a Designated Safeguarding Lead and Head of Science during his time within schools. Chris is ready to get involved and support the local community, continuing to create a better society for the future.

### **ANDREW MEAD – Community Governor**

Andrew was elected as a Parent Governor in October 2018 and appointed as a Community Governor in December 2022. He has two children at the College. Andrew has also been a Governor at a local primary school. He is a solution architect for a large telecommunications manufacturer and has lived in Bagshot for over ten years. He put himself forward for the Governing Board to provide support and help improve the learning experience for all children at Collingwood.

### **FIONA FERGUSON – Community Governor**

Fiona was appointed as a Community Governor in summer 2023. She attended Collingwood College as a student and looks forward to seeing the College continue to deliver great results and a supportive environment for students to thrive in. Fiona has just moved back to Camberley with her husband and young daughter. She is a Solicitor and has been involved in various social mobility projects and mentoring

initiatives throughout her career, to support young people from all backgrounds in having equal opportunities to maximise their potential.

### **SHARON SALMON – Community Governor**

Sharon was appointed as a Community Governor in November 2024. Sharon worked in education until she retired in 2018. She began teaching maths and physics in Inner London and, via a range of roles, ended her career as a Headteacher of a Special School in Hampshire. She has been a magistrate for 16 years and sits on the Adult Crime and Youth panels on the North Hampshire bench. Since retiring she has completed an MSc in Forensic Psychology.

Sharon's son and daughter attended the College and left nearly 20 years ago. Both received an excellent education and Sharon wants to support the College to continue to provide similar excellent opportunities to the current students.

### **EMMA RAVEN – Co-opted Governor**

Emma was appointed as a Governor in July 2025. She lives with her husband and daughter in Camberley and is proud to be called 'Nanny' by their five-year-old Grandson whose Daddy is a former foster son that never really left their home. She has an extensive background in working with children and young people, both within an Social Emotional and Mental Health provision in Wokingham and, for ten years as a Local Authority Foster Carer with a specialism in teenagers. As part of her fostering role Emma was elected as the Secretary of the Local Authority Fostering Association which supported and advocated for carers countywide. Part of this role meant becoming a stakeholder in Corporate Parenting sub committees, both in Education and Learning & Development.

Emma is looking forward to embarking on her journey as a Governor at Collingwood College and welcomes the opportunity to become part of the team.

### **SHAUN GARRETT – Parent Governor**

Shaun was elected as a Parent Governor in October 2017 and re-elected for a further 4 year term in October 2021. He has also been a Governor at two local primary schools for approximately 8 years. Shaun has a son in Year 11 at the College and his daughter is at a local primary school, hopefully joining Collingwood in September 2022. Shaun, his wife Michelle and his children have lived in the area for over 15 years. He is a Sales Manager for a small company who distribute small electric motors. Shaun is a Trustee for a local children's charity helping to brighten the lives of deaf children and also for Surrey Heath Age Concern. Shaun was elected as a Borough Councillor in 2019.

### **LARA SILVERSTEIN – Parent Governor**

Lara was elected as a Parent Governor in October 2017 and re-elected for a further 4 year term in October 2021. She is a scientist and obtained a degree in Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Loughborough University before completing a PhD in Biochemistry at Surrey University. Lara's interest in biological sciences led her to a career in clinical research in the pharmaceutical industry where she has worked as a manager for over 25 years. Lara has been part of teams developing new medicines for a number of diseases, including psoriasis and arthritis. Lara lives in Lightwater with her husband and three boys. Her three sons are at Collingwood.

## **STEVEN PAYNE – Parent Governor**

Steven was elected as a Parent Governor in January 2021 and re-elected to serve a further 4 year term in November 2024. He lives locally with his wife and their three children who all attend the College. Steven has previously served on the committee for a local community centre and as director for a local residents association. Steven has spent over 20 years in software engineering both hands on and leadership positions, for a range of small, medium and multinational companies.

## **JAMES MASON – Parent Governor**

James was elected as a Parent Governor in November 2022. He lives in Camberley with his wife and daughter, who started at Collingwood September 2022, and their two Stepsons, one having attended Collingwood between September 2010 and June 2017. James is also a Governor at a local primary federation of three schools in Surrey Heath.

James moved to Camberley in 2010 from Lincolnshire after running the IT of a Premiership football Club for over 3 years. His career started in IT and one role was a laptop technician at a school for 11–19-year-olds, a similar size to Collingwood. As his career developed, he became a Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT) and moved into IT Consultancy. James then decided to move into Information Security, Governance, Risk & Compliance, leading organisations to implement and manage Security & Compliance related programs. This included working closely with a range of customers on their own programs, in sectors ranging from Government, Regulatory, Financial, Education, Managed Service & Cloud Providers and others. James currently leads the Global Privacy, Risk & Compliance program for a leading Global Business to Business (B2B) Sales Pipeline Generation provider. James is looking forward to using his skills and experience for the benefit of Collingwood, which in turn, positively impacts a child's journey, benefitting them for a lifetime.

## **CHRIS MOULD – Parent Governor**

Chris was elected as a Parent Governor in January 2025. He is an experienced professional with a strong background in developing teams and businesses in the Insurance sector and currently is one of the three Partners running the largest NFU Mutual Agency in the UK, based in Hampshire. On a personal note, Chris is a staunch Brentford fan and runs a local golf society called 'Chasing Aces'. He is the proud parent of three children, all of whom are currently in education. His eldest child attends Collingwood College, and he is deeply invested in their academic and personal growth. Having lived in Camberley and the surrounding towns for nearly 30 years, Chris has a strong connection to the local community. Chris's motivation for becoming a school governor stems from a desire to positively influence the educational journey of not only his children but also other students in the community. He believes that by contributing his skills and experience, he can help shape a supportive and enriching educational environment that fosters success and well-being for all students in a wonderful environment like Collingwood.

## **GARY BAKER – Parent Governor**

(awaiting bio)

### **KATY ROBINSON – Staff Governor**

Katy was elected as a Staff Governor in October 2021. She joined Collingwood in September 2010 after working in the London borough of Croydon for three years. Katy has had a wide range of roles within the PE department, particularly within the sixth form as KS5 coordinator for A level PE and BTEC Sport National. Katy is currently a Year Manager after applying for a pastoral role in 2018. She is a big advocate for being outside in nature and playing sport in green spaces. She has promoted rugby union and cricket to girls and boys at Collingwood. Katy used to play rugby and still plays cricket at Guildford cricket club. She is also a keen golfer.

### **SUREYA VASSALLO – Staff Governor**

Sureya joined the Maths department at Collingwood College as an Newly Qualified Teacher in January 2004. She has held several roles within the department and now holds the position of Joint Assistant Head of Department, KS4 Coordinator. Sureya was elected as a Staff Governor in November 2023. Over the years, she has been involved in a variety of groups within the College, including the Staff Development Group (now Staff Wellbeing Group). Sureya enjoys singing as a member of Basingstoke Choral Society, reading as many books as possible, and also crafts (knitting and cross stitching).

### **REBECCA WOODS – Staff Governor**

Rebecca was elected as Staff Governor in November 2023. She joined Collingwood in 2007, after working in the media industry where she was editor and writer for several magazines. Rebecca has been the Head of the English Department for twelve years, always ensuring the best outcomes for the students. Her other roles at the College include teacher of Criminology, Lead Coach, Metacognition Lead and she is a Pupil Premium mentor for Year 11 students. Outside of Collingwood, she is a mum to two lively and funny girls; loves reading; is probably too addicted to true crime podcasts; and is a keen Peloton fan, working out in her garage at 6am every other morning.