

## Great Heights Academy Trust, MAT Board

Trustees and areas of expertise/specialism (in alphabetical order of surname):

### **Amanda Bennett**

(Trust Chief Executive Officer and NLE)

Amanda has been Principal and Executive Principal of The Greetland Academy for over 16 years, after successfully applying for the post of Headteacher at Greetland School in 2002. Having worked to ensure its continuing success the School was awarded the outstanding grade in all areas in 2007 - the end of Key Stage results being consistently above national averages. In 2015, The Greetland Academy was recognised as 49th in the country in the Sunday Times School Guide and has two years of being regional Pupil Premium award winners alongside Investor in People and Arts Mark recognition.

Amanda was initially vice-chair and then chair for the Calderdale Primary Headteachers' Association over a four year period, supporting over 80 primary schools. She restructured the association to form an executive group. More recently Amanda was voted by fellow Teaching School leaders to represent them as a member of the Teaching School Council. She has held this position for 3 years and is the lead representative for Lancashire and West Yorkshire. Amanda has restructured the provision to secure a team of over 20 system leaders to support the local school improvement system for Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

In 2010, Amanda led Greetland School through conversion to academy status as one of the first outstanding converters in the county and subsequently supported other local school leaders and Governors through their academy conversions. She has developed governance and accountability structures across schools and designations including restructuring her own trust business model.

The role of Executive Principal and MAT CEO has given Amanda the opportunity to strategically lead current initiatives at The Greetland Academy and its MAT. The Greetland Academy is a designated Teaching School, SCITT, Research School and English Hub. Amanda contributes locally to forums and boards via the 'West Yorkshire Strategic Partnership', regionally with developments in the Teaching School Council as an NLE/ Pupil Premium Reviewer, provides academy leader advice to the national ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) as a Finance Steering Group member, and continues to provide school support and guidance through the designated Research School within the 'Opportunity Area' of Oldham.

### **Angela Birt FRCOG PhD**

(Trustee; former Parent Governor – to 2017)

Dr Angela Birt is an obstetrician and a Gynaecologist. Angela worked in the NHS for nearly 30 years and the last 15 years as a consultant. Angela was elected as a parent governor in 2013, and served one full term of office on the Greetland Academy local governing board until 2017. During this four year term Angela served on the personal development and welfare, curriculum, and staffing committees.

Angela became a Trustee of the MAT Board when The Greetland Academy Trust was formed in 2018. Angela is also a parent governor at The Crossley Heath School, an outstanding mixed selective grammar school with academy status; currently serving on the achievement and welfare, and the vision and strategy committees of this secondary school's governing board. Angela is passionate about education and wants every child to aim high. She believes that a high standard of education can be provided in a supportive, safe and happy environment; and that a clear mind, happiness and mental wellbeing are essential for children to reach their maximum potential.

## **Emily Flaxman**

(Trustee)

Emily is a qualified Solicitor and Associate in the Real Estate Team at CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP (CMS). CMS is a leading international law firm, one of the largest in the world. Emily advises a wide range of clients on highly complex real estate transactions, whilst being a technical expert in this field of law. She additionally has expertise in best value plus a solid understanding of personnel management.

Emily managed a team of associates across real estate, construction and planning in connection with the \$2.8bn acquisition of the European arm of a leading logistics company. She also led on the acquisition of a hotel development site for £43m, which completed simultaneously with an investment sale and leaseback.

## **James Fryer**

(Trustee; former Parent Governor)

James has over 30 years' experience in the Financial Services industry and is currently Business Development Manager for a service provider to the insurance sector. Primarily responsible for sales and B2B relationship management functions of his business, his role also encompasses marketing, training, data protection and CSR.

James contributed to the governance of The Greetland Academy for over 10 years, having originally been elected as a Parent Governor for two successive terms of office; also chairing the former Premises Committee and acting as designated Governor for Health & Safety. Prior to becoming a Parent Governor James had been Treasurer of the school's PTA (Friends of Greetland School). A proud member of the Greetland community for over 15 years, James' children attended Greetland before moving on to secondary education locally, following happy and inspiring times at the school.

## **Ken Inwood**

(Trustee)

Ken has been involved in education for over 50 years, teaching across the age ranges from nursery age to adult education and across the ability range from children with severe multiple disabilities to gifted athletes performing at national standards. He was a Headteacher at primary schools for over 20 years, including one year as acting Headteacher at Greetland School. Ken retired from headship in 2006, after successfully moving a large primary school from Special Measures to Outstanding.

Ken has managed two large, cross-phase federations of schools in West Central and North Halifax (2006 – 2017). The position involved the organisation and coordination of meetings involving Local Authority leaders and Heads of schools, often on particularly contentious or challenging issues. It also involved the planning and delivery of a wide range of educational activities including CPD for teachers across both primary and secondary schools.

Ken was the Director of Calderdale Excellence Partnership (2006-2017) and was involved in a variety of educational initiatives including large-scale national research projects. He is currently working as an educational consultant, delivering training nationwide for teachers in schools and MATs and working with the National Literacy Trust on a project using self-regulation to improve writing.

## **Illy Jaffar**

(Trustee)

An award winning, commercially astute, creative marketing and communications professional with over 25 years' experience including retail, managing iconic global/luxury brands, as well as launching and developing challengers.

Illy has extensive experience from both his professional career and latterly running his own consultancy company. He worked for Asda, then Pernod Ricard for 11 years during which time he was promoted to Head of Marketing and Head of Brand Advocacy, where he travelled the world promoting the company's drinks products at various events and to large scale customers. He has created and delivered branded commercial properties such as the Perrier Jouet bar at Harvey Nichols.

Illy spent 4 years as a Tour Manager for performing bands/artistes, organising several UK and world tours. He has always believed in nurturing and supporting the next generation of talent and is an active fundraiser for Teenage Cancer Trust and Childline.

## **Carlton Midgley**

(Chair of Trustees and a Member of The Greetland Academy Trust)

Carlton is a former Headteacher who has worked as a School Improvement Partner since 2006, providing support and challenge to primary and secondary schools/academies. From 2008, he was National Challenge Adviser to five schools/academies, each of which significantly improved their percentage of GCSE 5ACEM. Carlton made a substantial contribution to their improvement through involvement in quality assurance, monitoring and review.

Carlton led the successful Halifax Excellence Cluster for 11 years – providing support, challenge and additional funding to 26 schools. This organisation was a major factor in Cluster schools achieving the best ever KS2 and KS4 results in 2011 and in 42% of the schools becoming outstanding (from 0% in 2000). He has wide experience of working with schools causing concern; co-ordinating the necessary support, monitoring and evaluation. He is a Registered Ofsted Inspector; leading over 40 inspections and acting as team member on 60.

## **Mr John Midgley FCA**

(Trustee)

John is a Director of KPMG, one of the big four auditing companies. He is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales with over 19 years' financial services experience. With a BA in Mathematics, John has had a varied career including spells in audit, the banking industry and advisory.

John currently leads KPMG's Securitisation team in the UK, providing services to a range of clients across Europe and the Middle East, and is the chair of KPMG's Network of Women in Leeds. Previous achievements include qualifying as an ACA with KPMG in their Financial Services audit practice in Leeds, running the UK's largest master trust securitisation and implementing the UK's first covered bond programme whilst working at the Halifax Bank of Scotland. Since his return to KPMG in 2004, John has worked closely with the FCA and the government, having been part of the consultation group for the Regulated Covered Bond Regulations in 2008, and having been involved in all the various liquidity schemes under the Sterling Monetary Framework.

## **Jackie Nellis**

(Trustee)

Jackie has a wide range of experience in education and has been a successful head teacher, most recently of the Halifax Academy, a 4-16 school in Calderdale. More recently, Jackie was Assistant Director of Children's Services in Calderdale, with overall responsibility for the performance and finances of schools and early years across the authority. Lately a self-employed educational consultant working with a range of partners including Teaching Schools Council, multi academy trusts and local authorities, Jackie is now the Principal of Lightcliffe Academy (from September 2019).

## **Mr James Power**

(Trustee)

James is the Vice President of NatWest Markets PLC (the investment banking arm of the Nat West Bank) and is responsible for global procurement and supplier management for the finance and legal functions within the Bank. He spends much of his time deeply involved in contracts and legal matters relating to performance and delivery. His areas of expertise include financial, legal, communications and marketing, human resources and facilities management. He negotiated £1m savings in the bank's legal spend for 2020.

Prior to his current role, James worked for a company specialising in procurement and spent time on secondment to the Co-Op Bank (where he directly advised their Board) and to HMRC.

(last updated, Clerk\*, 14.10.20)

**\*Dr N Oliver** - currently Secretary to the Members and Clerk to the Board of Trustees - has managed the administration of governance at The Trust (maintained school, single academy trust, LGB and MAT) since being appointed in a recruitment exercise in May 2001; with extensive public and third sector experience, he has provided a link on behalf of The Trust to the Governor Support Service (and Clerks Network) locally.

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