

*Achieving excellence together*

Governance at Great Heights Academy Trust and its MAT schools is informed at all times by the latest version of DfE's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework; and complies with ESFA's Academies Financial Handbook, as updated.

Our governance structures and people involved currently are summarised below, with Trustee 'pen pictures' (areas of expertise/specialism) in an accompanying document.

The MAT Board (comprising ten "Trustees") are directors of the company and trustees of the exempt charity. The Chair of the MAT leads the Board, manages the business, provides leadership (alongside the CEO) for the MAT as a whole and is accountable for the vision, supporting the CEO when the MAT is held to account. The Trust also has five "Members" who have 'eyes on, hands off' roles, similar to shareholders of a business. Members take the lead in filling any vacancies on the Board, referring to the Competency Framework and skills gaps (procurement, communications, legal etc).

The levels of delegation (top down) are:

**Level 0: Members**

**Level 1: Board of Trustees**

**Level 2: Chief Executive Officer**

**Level 3: Academy Principal / Head of Designation**

**Level 4: Academy Council (LGB)**

**Members**<sup>1</sup>

Vacant (Alex Griffiths, Chair, resigned December 2020)

Carlton Midgley

Graham Newton

Peta Cocker (appointed 17.1.19)

John Flynn (appointed 24.1.19)

**Board of Trustees**<sup>1</sup>

Carlton Midgley (Chair, MAT Board of Trustees)

Amanda Bennett OBE (CEO)

Dr Angela Birt

James Fryer (re-appointed May 2019, for 4 years)

Ken Inwood (Chair of Standards) (appointed 4.12.18, for 4 years)

Jackie Nellis (appointed 4.12.18, for 4 years)

John Midgley (Chair of Finance) (appointed 17.1.19, for 4 years)

Emily Brooke

Illy Jaffar

James Power

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(new Trustees recruited June 2020, for 6 months initially; confirmed by Trust Members December 2020, for 4 years)

<sup>1</sup> Dr N Oliver, Secretary to the Members and Clerk to the Board of Trustees has been involved with the administration of governance at Greetland since being appointed in a recruitment exercise in May 2001; he provides a link on behalf of Trustees to Governor Support (and Clerks Network) at Calderdale MBC.

## **Finance (including Premises) Committee**

Chair of Finance, J Midgley

- *provides assurance over the suitability of, and compliance with, financial systems internal and operational controls, including audit and risk responsibilities.*
- *other than where specified, a non-delegated committee to provide information to the Trust Board concerning finance and premises issues to ensure appropriate planning, monitoring, probity, risk management and internal control systems.*

## **LGBs – Greetland, West Vale, Raynville, Carlinghow & Bowling Green Academy**

- *Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) have been formed according to a bespoke version of the NGA scheme of delegation (Model 2\*\*, Version 2): ‘Academy Council’, with powers only to advise and recommend, not decide. Parents (Parent Local Governors) are elected at the LGB level, i.e. not to the MAT Board. Academy Council memberships are subject to ongoing review and skills audit.*

[West Vale Academy Local Governing Body](#) (Calderdale)

[Raynville Academy Local Governing Body](#) (Leeds)

[Carlinghow Academy Local Governing Body](#) (Kirklees)

[Bowling Green Academy Local Governing Body](#) (Calderdale)

[Greetland Local Governing Body](#) (inaugural meeting 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019):

Graham Newton – Chair (Community Governor & Member of the Trust)

Helen Crowther – Principal

Captain Steve Bennett (Parent, elected 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018)

Gina Walsh (Parent, elected 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018)

Paul Buckley (Community Governor)

E Austwick (Staff Governor)

\*\*<https://www.governor.support/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/NGA-Model-2-Scheme-of-Delegation-Academy-Councils.pdf>

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**The MAT Board Terms of Reference are available in a separate document - to be read in conjunction with the Scheme of Delegation; Code of Practice; Conflicts of Interest Policy; and MAT Finance & Premises Committee Terms of Reference.**

*“The Academy Trust must take full control of its affairs, and apply, and be in compliance with, the letter and spirit of its accountability framework (set out in the Governance Handbook and the Academies Financial Handbook, as updated periodically). The Board of Trustees manages the business and exercises all the powers of the Academy Trust.”*

**The remit of Members is as set out in 5.2.1 of DfE’s Governance Handbook 2020.**

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## **Background**

Proposals for MAT governance structures, roles, responsibilities and accountabilities were initially set out in a ‘pitch’ booklet 2015/16. The inaugural meeting of the Trust’s MAT Board was held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (minutes available on the [MAT website](#)).

A [MAT Business Plan 2020/21](#) is available.

The Trust re-branded to ‘Great Heights Academy Trust’ in Summer 2020.

**N Oliver, Clerk January 2021**