

*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 Academy Trust 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 up to five "Members" who have 'eyes on, hands off' roles, similar to shareholders of a business. The responsibility of Members includes taking the lead in filling any vacancies on the Board with reference to the Competency Framework and skills gaps.

Great Heights Academy Trust's governance layers (top down) are:

**Members**

**Board of Trustees**

**Executive Team**

**Academy Principal**

**Designation Responsibility**

**Academy Committee (LGB)**

**Designation Strategic Board**

**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) (re-appointed January 2022, for 4 yrs)

Amanda Bennett OBE (CEO)

Dr Angela Birt (re-appointed January 2022, for 4 years)

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

Kenneth 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

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

<sup>1</sup> The Governance professional is Dr N Oliver (Secretary to the Members and Clerk to the MAT Board). Dr Oliver has administered governance at Greetland since being appointed in a recruitment exercise in 2001 and provides a link on behalf of Trustees to governance support organisations locally / nationally.

## **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 Academies**

- *Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) are formed according to a bespoke version of NGA's\*\* 'Guidance on schemes of delegation for academy trusts' (November 2020), with a role to "monitor, review and communicate". Parents are elected at LGB level and all LGB committees are subject to ongoing review and skills audit.*

[Greetland Local Governing Body](#) (inaugural academy; first met 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)

[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)

\*\*<https://www.nga.org.uk/Knowledge-Centre/Governance-structure-roles-and-responsibilities/Academy-trusts/Scheme-of-delegation.aspx>

---

**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 Academy Trust 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 by DfE & ESFA, reinforced by GHAT's own Scheme of Delegation, September 2021 and NGA's "The role of members", 2021.**

---

### 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 and Growth Plan](#) is available.

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

**N Oliver, Governance Professional (January 2022)**