

Great Heights Academy Trust, MAT Board

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

Amanda Bennett OBE

(Trust Chief Executive Officer and NLE)

Amanda was the Principal and Executive Principal of The Greetland Academy for over 20 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 had 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 held this position for 3 years including as lead representative for Lancashire and West Yorkshire. Amanda 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 subsequently the GHAT MAT, including designations as a Teaching School, SCITT, Research School and English Hub. Amanda has contributed locally to educational forums and boards, regionally with developments in the Teaching School Council as an NLE/Pupil Premium Reviewer, and provides academy leader advice to the ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) nationally as a Finance Steering Group member. She has also provided school support and guidance through a designated Research School within the 'Opportunity Area' of Oldham. In 2022, Amanda received the OBE for services to education in West Yorkshire.

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, retiring 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) and was a Director of Calderdale Excellence Partnership (2006-2017) involved in a variety of educational initiatives including large-scale national research projects. Most recently he worked as an educational consultant, delivering training nationwide for teachers in schools and MATs and worked 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. As a Registered Ofsted Inspector, he led over 40 inspections and acted 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 21 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, including the Halifax Academy (a 4-16 school) and Principal of Lightcliffe Academy. Jackie was also Assistant Director of Children's Services in Calderdale, with overall responsibility for the performance and finances of schools and early years across the authority. Currently, Jackie is a self-employed educational consultant working with a range of partners including multi academy trusts and local authorities.

Mr James Power

(Trustee)

James is Head of Procurement for the Cumberland Building Society, responsible for all procurement and supplier management. 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. James has worked for a number of financial services firms, most recently Natwest, as well as a management consultancy firm specialising in procurement.

(last updated, Clerk*, 21.02.24)

***Dr N Oliver** - currently Secretary to the Members and Governance Professional 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 national and local Clerks Networks.
