

Governance at Great Heights Academy Trust and its 2-18 MAT schools is informed at all times by the latest version of DfE’s Academy Trust Governance Guide and Trust Quality Descriptions; and complies with ESFA’s Academy Trust Handbook. Our governance structures and people involved currently are summarised below, with Trustee ‘pen pictures’ (areas of expertise/specialism) available.

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 Governance Guide and any skills gaps.

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

Members

Board of Trustees (all Trust-appointed)

Executive Team

Academy Principal

Designation Responsibility

Academy Committee (LGB)

Members

Carlton Midgley (appointed 19.12.17)

Peta Cocker (appointed 17.1.19)

John Flynn (appointed 24.1.19; Chair)

Kay Brennan (appointed 12.12.22; resigned 7.5.24)

Andrew Fisher (appointed 1.1.24)

Board of Trustees

Carlton Midgley	(Chair, MAT Board) (re-appointed 25 January 2022, for 4 yrs)
Jackie Nellis	(Vice Chair) (re-appointed 2022; resigned 22 October 2024)
Amanda Bennett OBE	(CEO) (Ex Officio)
Dr Angela Birt	(appointed 2011; resigned 7 December 2023)
James Fryer	(re-appointed May 2023; resigned 15 February 2024)
Kenneth Inwood	(Chair of SI) (re-appointed 3 December 2022, for 4 yrs)
John Midgley	(re-appointed 1 January 2023, for 4 years)
Emily Brooke	(appointed 5 June 2020; resigned 31 December 2023)
Illy Jaffar	(recruited June 2020 for 6 months initially; ratified by Members December 2020; re-appointed June 2024, for 4 years)
James Power	
Mark McManus	(recruited July 2024 with assistance from ‘Governors for Schools’; appointed w.e.f. 1.9.2024, for 4 years)
David Purdon	
Vicky Stoneman	Recruited July 2024, Resigned 3.7.2025
Diane McConnell	Appointed

Finance Committee*

Chair of Finance, D Purdon

- 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.

Local Governing Body committees at Great Heights Academy Trust schools

- Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) were formed initially according to a bespoke version of NGA's** 'Guidance on schemes of delegation for academy trusts', with a role to "monitor, review and communicate". Parents are elected at LGB level. LGB committees are subject to ongoing review and skills audit and the Trust operates LGBs to a model of 6 Governors and a common standard of reporting.
- In keeping with DfE's Schools White Paper (2022) "all trusts should have local governance arrangements", GHAT's local governance implementation strategy (May 2022 - ongoing) now includes a disaggregated LGB scheme of delegation, renewed terms of reference, an LGB Handbook, Ofsted-related Governance Guides and QA processes. LGB Terms of Office are appended to this document.

[Greetland Local Governing Body](#) (inaugural academy; first met February 2019):

[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)

[Marsden Junior School Local Governing Body](#) (Kirklees)

[The Mirfield Free Grammar Local Governing Body](#) (Kirklees)

[Colne Valley High School \(Kirklees\)](#) (Interim LGB; joined January 2024)

[Niolds Academy Local Governing Body](#) (Kirklees) (joined April 2024)

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

*In 24-25 our committees are Finance, Estates Management, School Improvement, Workforce

The MAT Board Terms of Reference are available in a separate document - to be read in conjunction with the Scheme of Delegation; Code of Conduct; Conflicts of Interest Policy; and MAT Finance 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, July 2024; NGA's "The role of members", 2023; and Browne Jacobson guidance re. Fiduciary duties, 2020.

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 25th January 2018 (minutes available on the [MAT website](#)).

A [Stakeholder Overview \(Business Plan\)](#) is available.

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

LGB Terms of Office				
Name	Type	Start Date	Expiry Date	Date left
The Greetland Academy				
Peta Cocker	Chair	01.09.22	31.08.26	
Paul Buckley	Community	01.10.23	30.09.27	
Elizabeth Rothery (Austwick)	Staff	17.01.23	16.01.27	
Gina Walsh	Parent	19.12.22	18.12.26	
Steve Bennett	Parent	19.12.22	18.12.26	
Peter Graham Newton	Chair			Left 31.08.22
West Vale Academy				
Deborah Shutter	Chair	27.01.23	26.01.27	
Tammy McQueeney	Parent	13.07.23	12.07.27	
Jane Woodcock	Community	04.07.23	03.07.27	
James Power	Chair	01.09.21	02.02.25	Left 26.01.23
Illy Jaffar	Community	03.02.21	02.02.25	Left 30.06.23
Hollie Mangan	Parent	31.01.22	30.06.22	Left 30.06.22
Hannah Cooper	Parent			
Claire Akroyd	Staff	1.9.25	1.9.29	
Raynville				
Steve Evans	Chair	06.10.22	05.10.26	
Louise Harrison	Staff	28.06.22	27.06.26	
Neil Carrington	Parent	27.05.22	26.05.26	
Paige Taylor	Parent	6.3.25	5.3.29	
Vinay Shukla	Parent	16.02.22	15.03.26	Left 31.12.24
Daniel Whieldon	Community	01.01.21	31.12.24	Left 31.12.24
Sarah Tulip	Ex Chair			Left 28.03.22
Leanne Potter	Ex Chair			Left 14.08.22
Carlinghow				
Diane McConnell	Chair	15.10.20	14.10.24	Left 31.12.24
Steve Evans	Community	15.10.20	14.10.24	Left 05.10.22
Alison Ley	Community	15.10.20	14.10.24	
John Flynn	Community	15.10.20	14.10.24	
Nafeesa Soibhan Limbada-Glennie	Parent	29.11.21	14.10.24	Left 14.01.24
Steph Lamb	Parent	23.01.23	22.01.27	Left 14.01.24
Jonathon Fitzgerald	Staff	1.9.25	1.9.29	
Somaya Shaikh	Parent	1.9.25	1.9.29	
Farzana Akhtar	Parent	07.05.24	06.05.28	
Bowling Green				
Ken Inwood	Chair	16.03.21	31.8.25 (extended)	
Thomas Andrews	Staff	30.11.21	29.11.25	Left 31.8.23
Paul Miller	Community	12.11.21	11.11.25	
Laura Wood	Parent	01.12.20	30.11.24	Left 30.11.24
Andrew Grime	Parent	01.12.20	30.11.24	Left 30.11.24
Jane Mellor	Staff	1.9.23	1.9.27	
Danielle Elliot	Parent	1.12.24	30.11.28	
Oliver Coates	Parent	1.12.24	30.11.28	

Marsden Junior School				
Andrew Midgley	Chair	27.10.23	26.10.27	
Moira Scarff	Parent	01.09.24	31.08.28	
Jeni Harvey	Parent	6.3.25	5.3.29	
Joshua Kaye	Staff	08.06.24	7.6.28	
Victoria Woods	Parent	01.11.21	09.01.24	Left 28.4.23
Lynne Slater	Chair	07.07.23	26.10.23	Left 28.4.23
Lisa Jagger	Parent	01.11.21	30.01.23	Left 30.1.23
Alex Bliss	Ex Chair	19.10.21	06.07.23	Left 28.4.23
James Christian	Trust	03.03.22	28.04.23	Left 28.4.23
Jennifer Ryan	Trust	23.06.20	28.04.23	Left 28.4.23
Richard Barber	Trust	29.09.21	28.04.23	Left 28.4.23
Mirfield Free Grammar				
Jacqueline Nellis	Chair	01.09.23	31.08.27	Left 22.10.24
Andrew Stanton	Staff	28.04.23	27.04.27	
Clare Murphy	Staff	28.04.23	27.04.27	
Andrew Bemrose	Community	28.11.24	27.11.28	
Andrew Midgley	Trust	23.10.24	22.10.28	
Rachel Wrathmell	Parent	01.11.22	31.10.26	Left 22.10.24
Shelbie Tetlow	Community	12.05.22	11.05.26	Left 22.10.24
Sarah Breeze	Parent	08.06.21	07.06.25	
Yvette Devine	Chair	07.03.19	06.03.23	Left 6.3.23
Alison Barnes	Community	08.12.22	28.04.23	Left 28.4.23
Charlotte Lancaster	Parent	08.06.21	28.04.23	Left 28.4.23
James Christian	Trust	29.09.21	28.04.23	Left 28.4.23
Jennifer Ryan	Trust	23.06.20	28.04.23	Left 28.4.23
Michele Adamson-Biott	parent	01.11.22	28.04.23	Left 28.4.23
Alison Barnes	Community	08.12.22	30.01.23	Left 30.1.23
Charlotte Wrathmell	Parent	01.11.22	30.01.23	Left 30.1.23
Thomas Jennings	Staff	01.04.22	30.01.23	Left 30.1.23
Colne Valley High School - (Interim LGB)				
Steve Evans	Chair	01.01.24	31.8.25	
Andrew Fisher	IEB	01.01.24	31.8.25	
Diane McConnell	IEB	01.01.24	31.8.25	
John Midgley	IEB	01.01.24	31.8.25	
Nields				
Madeline Maddock	Chair	01.04.24	31.03.28	31.8.24
Austin Brown	Community	13.07.22	12.07.26	31.8.24
James Hall	Parent	26.10.21	25.10.25	31.8.24
Peta Cocker	IEB (Chair)	1.9.24	31.8.25	
Jim McAuley	IEB	1.9.24	31.8.25	
Helen Pearson	IEB	1.9.24	31.8.25	
Carolyn Littlewood	IEB	1.9.24	31.8.25	