

Pen Portraits for Kingsmead LGB 2019-20

Chris Hunt – Chair of Governors

Until July 2019, when he retired after 50 years working in education, Chris was an educational consultant with 19 years' experience as a secondary head in two different schools – Brownhills in Walsall and Finham Park in Coventry. He then worked in school improvement across two local authority areas in five schools and was also employed by an academy chain as well as Sandwell Local Authority. After leaving headship he was a senior officer with Coventry Local Authority for some years before undertaking a range of school improvement work in a variety of contexts. Chris found this work both very interesting and very rewarding. A history graduate from Southampton University who began his career at the then Cannock Grammar School, he has lived in Hednesford for over 40 years and is married with four grown up children, three of whom went to Kingsmead (and have done very well out of it). His hobbies include listening to classical music, reading and watching Leicester play rugby.

Mark Pickerill – Vice Chair and Co-opted Governor

As a local resident and former pupil of Kingsmead I have been a governor at the school since 2012. Both of my daughters have successfully completed GCSE's and A Levels at Kingsmead and it is with this local experience I feel my primary governing role, has been to help ensure that the school delivers a curriculum and operates with a culture that fully represents the community it serves. My professional background in senior retail leadership roles has helped, at times, to bring different perspectives to challenges the school has and will continue to face in the future. Issues such as, funding, staffing and provision of facilities.

Until the end of our last academic year I fulfilled the role of Vice Chair of Governors, with key responsibilities for finance and MFL.

Richard Hayes - Co-opted Governor

Richard Hayes has been a long serving Governor of Kingsmead School. Starting as a parent Governor and having served as Vice Chair and as the Kingsmead nominee to the JTMAT board he now acts as a Co Opted Governor. Both Daughters were educated at Kingsmead and both went on to University and have successful professional careers. After leaving a Senior Technical position in a large Lighting Manufacturing Group, he and a colleague he started their own specialist Lighting Consultancy in 1992. Working mainly in UK and Europe with close links to companies in Switzerland Italy and the USA. He is actively involved in Lighting engineering education. Being a Governor enables him to help the community where he raised his family. Being an engineer with business experience brings a different perspective to education discussions.

Dave Ryder - Co-opted Governor

Dave Ryder has lived in the Cannock Chase area for most of his life. Educated at Cannock Grammar School and the Universities of Newcastle-on-Tyne and Birmingham, he commenced his teaching career at the then Chase Terrace Comprehensive School in 1972. Moving to Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School, he was a Deputy Headteacher for a number of years until his retirement in 2011, having enjoyed a wide and in-depth experience of the educational world.

Whilst having a profound respect for all traditions and cultures, Dave approaches life from a Christian perspective and has been a Methodist lay preacher for over 40 years. He has trained in both youth leadership and pastoral counselling. Having a long-standing connection with the school, his wife taught at Kingsmead for many years, his daughter was educated at Kingsmead (becoming Head Girl) before studying and Graduating at the University of Birmingham. Having served as a governor for several years he has an immense confidence in Kingsmead's leadership and staff, coupled with a deep regard not only for them, but also for Kingsmead's pupils, parents and community.

If all its partners continue to work hard together, he is optimistic that Kingsmead has, indeed, a very bright future

Barbara Heath - Co-opted Governor

Barbara has been a governor at Kingsmead for over 23 years, firstly as a Parent Governor and now as a Community Governor. She served as Chair for many years but decided to step down as she approached her own retirement but still wanted to play a full role as a Governor.

Barbara has taught in all 3 phases of education, High, Middle and Primary. She has now retired after 43 years of continuous service, latterly working at a local feeder school as Assistant Headteacher and Acting Headteacher for two years. She was assessed as an Advanced Skill Teacher in ICT and has supported many schools in all phases as part of her outreach work. She can bring expertise in the Primary phase, E-Learning & ICT to the Governing body as well as up to date experience in Safeguarding.

During her service as a Governor at Kingsmead she has chaired meetings and served on many sub committees, including Headteacher's Performance management, staff and pupil disciplinary, exclusion panels as well as redundancy and appeal panels. Barbara has considerable experience in safer recruitment.

Barbara lives in Heath Hayes and has supported Kingsmead since first coming to the area thirty one years ago. Her aim is to ensure that every pupil at Kingsmead achieves their potential and is passionate about nurturing and the well-being of the whole school community. She has been married for 43 years to a retired university lecturer who is also a member of the C of E clergy. Barbara has 2 daughters, (whose musical talents were nurtured by Kingsmead and both are teachers, the eldest is Head of Y10 in a High School in Doncaster and the youngest is a Primary teacher in the Black Country) She is a proud Grandma with two grandchildren.

Barbara's interests are gardening and Environmental concerns and was twice runner up Environmental teacher of the year. In addition she is passionate about sewing, patchwork and machine embroidery.

Stuart Shirley - Co-opted Governor

Stuart Shirley has been a Governor of Kingsmead School for 14 years, starting as a parent Governor, and now co-opted Governor, Stuart is the link governor for Mental Health and Wellbeing. All three of his children were educated at Kingsmead, with one working at Newcastle College, one at University and one working for the school. Stuart has worked for West Midlands Ambulance Service for the past 27 years, doing several roles, and is now a Paramedic Officer, based at one of the busiest hospitals in the West Midland region. Being a Governor enables him to help the community where he has raised his family.

Ian van den Berg - Co-opted Governor

Ian is a Co-opted governor for Kingsmead. He previously served on the governing body as a parent governor, when his eldest daughter attended Kingsmead, and resigned in 2013. Ian returned to the governing body in the capacity of Co-opted governor, and his youngest daughter now attends Kingsmead. Ian has 13 years' experience in a managerial role in a horticultural retail setting in addition to spending many years coaching the South African and British national women's softball teams. Being a governor enables Ian to give back to the school his learned experiences of coaching and managing a successful business.

Russell Dyke - Staff Governor (Teaching)

Russell Dyke is in his second term as a Governor of Kingsmead School. He initially became a Co-opted Governor in 2015 and was then elected as a Staff Governor in 2019. In his first term, Russell was Link Governor for Careers Education. He has been teaching at the school since 2001, initially as a member of the English Department. Whilst continuing to teach English, he has fulfilled a variety of pastoral roles within the school, working within the SEN department and as Head of House. Currently he is a Progress Leader for Key Stage 4. Russell lives in the local area and attended Kingsmead himself as a student. His own children attend one of Kingsmead's feeder primary schools. Being a governor means he can help the community within which he lives.

Lisa Finch – Staff Governor (non-Teaching)

Lisa Finch has been employed at Kingsmead for 13 years, and was appointed Progress Leader for Year 9 in July 2019.

Lisa believes in working within school and communicating with parents and students this will allow her to contribute not only as a member of support staff, but also with an insight as to how the school is perceived by the local community.

Lisa is passionate about Kingsmead and keen to work with the leadership team and governors to not only improve the progress of all students, but also improve her knowledge to fulfil her role to the very best of her ability.

Linda Mawle - Parent Governor

Linda Mawle was elected as Parent governor in September 2019 and has two children who attend Kingsmead and another child who will start in September 2020. Linda and has observed with great interest the recent school changes and has a long term interest in the school's progression and performance.

Linda runs her own paediatric physiotherapy practice which has led to work within primary, secondary and special schools within Staffordshire and a number of other counties/local authorities. This work has given Linda a broad overview of the differences between schools and how they meet their pupils' needs. Having worked with children with disabilities Linda has a particular interest in provision for children with additional education needs and frequently writes reports and recommendations to schools regarding this.

Lisa Spindler – Parent Governor

Lisa Spindler was elected parent governor in September 2019, and is the parent of two children who attend Kingsmead. Linda is very proud of Kingsmead and very impressed in the changes that she as witnessed over the last two years. Lisa has enjoyed being involved in the school's PTFA, and feels as though she can contribute positively over the next few years in moving even further forward with good teaching staff and good support from other parents and community figures.