

PEN PORTRAITS

Jan North

I became a co-opted Governor in 2017 and took up the role of chair in September 2018. My home town is Wakefield where I have lived for most of my life but I am now at Lepton in Huddersfield. I have two daughters and three young grandsons with whom I like to spend as much time as possible,

I am now retired, having been a primary school teacher for 28 years. I worked for most of my career in an Outstanding school in Brighouse, where I was part of the Senior Leadership Team for 18 years. I loved teaching, it was hard work and sometimes challenging, immensely rewarding.

I have always been passionate about education and when I retired I felt that I would still like to be involved in the education and welfare of children. I feel that the knowledge, skills and experience I have gained in my years as a teacher can be applied to my role as a Governor.

I believe that role is to support and challenge the leaders of the school; to develop relationships with all members of the school community; to help the school to develop and evolve to maintain its very high standards in all aspects of school life; ultimately to work with the school to achieve the best possible outcomes for all of the pupils and ensure that their time at Gawthorpe Academy is happy and rewarding.

Deborah Iggleden

My name is Deborah Iggleden, I am a Parent Governor for Gawthorpe Community Academy, I have been in post since 2017.

In my professional life I take the form of a Human Resources manager. A huge part of my role focuses on learning and development of employees. Learning, Training and Development has and continues to be a significant passion, from supporting others to develop and grow to self-development, and I believe that you are never too old to learn something new.

I see my role as Parent Governor as an extension to both my HR career and my passion for learning and self-growth. In this capacity, I feel I can support the teaching staff and other governors in a learning environment, as well better understand the processes and legislation which is vital to our children's learning journey.

Emma McCarthy

Hello, I am Emma a governor since 2014. My child started her Gawthorpe academy journey with the nursery team some 4 years. I immediately wanted to help the school in any way I can and soon found myself on the governor's board.

I attend school most Fridays for celebration assembly and in between to observe lessons, meetings, development mornings and support the school in any way I can.

I am local to Gawthorpe and engage in the local community and activities. I work full time in Wakefield. Although I am no expert in children's education I am committed to the role of governor (researching what I need to learn and attending development courses) and the development of all our children. If you see me in the playground or around school please come and say hello.

Jo Marsden

I am a mother of two children both attending Gawthorpe Academy. We own a small family business within the local community and I also work part-time as a Sales Office Manager for a local business.

I was appointed as a Parent Governor in 2015 and initially became a member of the body to find out more about the way the school works, become involved in school life and provide a voice for parents. I am now a co-opted Governor in my second term and I enjoy using my knowledge and experience to support and challenge the school to perform to its very best ability ensuring all children are encouraged to achieve their full potential.

I am also an active member of the 'Friends of Gawthorpe' PTA, helping to raise funds for the school to benefit all of the children.

Sarah Samples

I was elected as a parent Governor in 2017 when my eldest child started in Reception. Although originally from Rotherham, I moved to Gawthorpe in 2009 and could not imagine living anywhere else. I have two children at Gawthorpe Academy, currently in Years 1 and 2.

I was a secondary school maths teacher for nearly 20 years, during which time I was a Whole School Numeracy Coordinator, Head of Department, Raising Achievement coordinator and Acting Assistant Headteacher. I am now a Data Manager in a secondary school in Mirfield having decided to step away from teaching to allow more time for my family.

I firmly and passionately believe that everyone should be pushed to achieve the best they can. As a Governor, I want to be there to support every member of the school and challenge the leaders to maintain the high standard they set for everyone.

Tim Thomas

I was born in Normanton Yorkshire and was educated to secondary level there. I did my further education at Coventry College of Education, now Warwick University, for three years. I worked at Wakefield Council on Direct Works Department then as a refuse collector before embarking on a teaching career. I worked at the same independent school in Hertfordshire for thirty-eight years where I was House Master and taught a range of subject including Maths, Geography and Games before heading up the A.D.T. department and leading many outward pursuit trips in the U.K. and abroad.

I retired in 2013 and became a co-opted governor later that year. My interests are Rugby (both codes) cricket, travelling on cruise ships and industrial archaeology.

I enjoy visiting the school and am always impressed with the working environment and lively and interested approach of the children to their studies.

Duncan Smith

A former pupil of Gawthorpe Academy, I am married with three children and have lived in Ossett and Gawthorpe all my life. I have a strong local government background, working as senior manager for Wakefield Council, with 27 years experience of corporate, directorate and partnership working at strategic and operational level. I gained experience of working across all service areas and partners including, NHS, housing and voluntary sector. I have a passion for bringing about positive and

effective change. My work in social care brought me into contact with individuals and families from diverse backgrounds and differing needs.

I am now in a position to use my knowledge and experience to be active in my local community. I care about where I live and am currently engaged in a range of voluntary roles including, Trustee/Secretary of Gawthorpe Maypole Committee, organising Gawthorpe World Coal Carrying Championships and Gawthorpe Maypole Procession; a Director (voluntary) of Building Ossett Better CIC, whose aim is to support and create a vibrant prosperous town; Chair and Trustee of Wray's Homes, Almshouses, Gawthorpe; for women aged 60+; also a Trustee of Ossett & Gawthorpe PCC (governing body of Trinity Church) in the roles of PCC Lay Chair, Treasurer and Lay Minister.

I feel my involvement locally, ideally places me for the role of Co-opted Governor. I look forward to supporting and where necessary constructively challenging the school leadership team to ensure continued improvement and development. However, most importantly I look forward to working collectively to help the school continue to maintain its very high standards and achieve the best possible results for all pupils, ensuring their time at Gawthorpe Academy is as rewarding for them as it was for me.

Robert Oldroyd

Hello my name is Robert Oldroyd and I have lived in and around Gawthorpe all my life. I lived next door to the Salvation Army until I was 18 years old and Gawthorpe Infant and Junior School where I was educated, was visible from my bedroom window.

I attended Gawthorpe School from 1970 to 1977 which was the Golden Jubilee year for the Junior and Infant School. From there, I went to newly built North Ossett High School, I was one of the first-year groups to attend. I left High school at 16 and began working for the Family business, S.W. Oldroyd and Son's Ltd a road haulage company and became a company director at the age of 25. As well as working full time I also continued my education at Wakefield College where I completed a 3 year course in B-Tec in Motor Engineering and then a further 2 years to gain a HND in Motor Engineering.

At 31 I took a big career change and left the company and joined the Prison Service where I still remain.

I used to be in the church choir at St. Mary's Church, Gawthorpe and Chickenley Heath, this is where I met my wife who was also in the choir.

I have also been involved with local amateur operatic and dramatic societies. I was a member of the Centre Players for 10 years and The Ossett Elizabethans amateur operatic society for 25 years. Both groups performed at Ossett Town Hall but sadly, both groups no longer meet. My main interest in the Village is that of the Gawthorpe Maypole. I have helped sow the sacks for the coal race by hand from the age of 10, In 1983 I was just 17 when I was asked if I could help Marshal the Maypole procession as they were short of volunteers and I have Marshalled every procession since. I became a member of the Maypole committee in 1984 and took over the role of Chief Marshall in the mid 1990's, so if you think you recognise me, yes I am the one at the front of the procession encouraging the May Queen and her attendants along with the Maypole Plaiters, to smile and wave. I love being part of the community and took it as a real honour when I was asked if I would consider becoming a Governor of the Village School where I attended as a child and where my Grandmother was a Governor many years ago.