



27 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent Governor Election

Following the nomination period for the Parent Governor vacancy, the following parents have been nominated (in alphabetical order):

Ben Duncan
Charlotte Greenland
Andrea Lisher
Ben Morton
Steve Redman
Darren Slade
Paula Williamson

Only the parents of a student currently registered at the school may vote. For the purpose of the election of a parent governor, "Parent" is defined for the purposes of the Constitution Regulations as including *"any individual who has or has had parental responsibility for, or cares or has cared for, a child or young person under the age of 18". It includes a person who the child lives with or who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child. The reference in the definition must be someone involved in the full-time care of the child on a settled basis.*

To vote, please complete the [Google Ballot Form here](#), selecting one candidate. Alternatively, you may complete the ballot paper below and return it to the school office. Please contact the school office if you would like to receive a hard copy of the ballot paper. Electronic and paper votes should be submitted by **midday on Tuesday 16 April**.

We will notify you of the result as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Julie Laws
Chair of Governors

James Shapland
Headteacher

BALLOT PAPER

There is 1 vacancy for a parent governor. Personal statements from the candidates can be found overleaf.

Candidates (in alphabetical order)

Ben Duncan	
Charlotte Greenland	
Andrea Lisher	
Ben Morton	
Steve Redman	
Darren Slade	
Paula Williamson	

1. Place a X against 1 name
2. Put the completed ballot paper in an envelope and seal it.
3. Write your name in BLOCK LETTERS and your signature on the envelope
4. Return it to the school office by **midday on Tuesday 16 April 2024**

A hard copy of this ballot paper and a supply of envelopes are available from the school office if required.

Personal statements are below.

Ben Duncan

Not academic myself I feel strongly about children's development outside of the curriculum - it's not all about three R's and A stars. I want to promote less worry and more excitement for the life and challenges that lie ahead. My job takes me around the world from Royal Palaces to remote tribes which has given me unique experiences, insight and an open mind with which I hope to bring fresh ideas to Ashlyns School.

Charlotte Greenland

I am interested in becoming a parent governor at Ashlyns as my daughter is a year 7 pupil. I want the school to be a happy and safe place for children to learn and grow. I have been a researcher and more recently a school science technician. My current employer aims to support the provision of practical science teaching in secondary schools. I believe my background would allow me to offer some relevant support and advice to the school.

Andrea Lisher

My eldest daughter is in year 7 and my two other children will hopefully be joining in the coming years, so I'm invested in Ashlyns' future. With a background as a BBC journalist I now work in PR for a national health and disability charity. It means I know how vital clear and timely communications are. Inclusivity is really important to me and making sure all our children are able to reach their potential, with the right support for them.

Ben Morton

In my career, I've served as an Army officer, led HR functions, including World Challenge, and owned a Berkhamsted-based business focusing on leadership and personal development for over a decade. My core values of service, integrity, and growth align perfectly with the school's ethos of nurturing student potential through a comprehensive and balanced approach. As a year 7 parent, I'm enthusiastic about contributing to the school community as a governor, seeing it as both a privilege and a significant responsibility.

Steve Redman

Live in Chesham with wife Laura, son Teddy and daughter Poppy plus visiting step-children. Have been a teacher for 24 years, currently Head of Science (Physics) at Berkhamsted School, where I have also been in pastoral leadership and IT Strategy. Excited to start a new career in May as Group Leader at the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington delivering science impact to the UK. Play league hockey and guitar.

Darren Slade

My desire to serve as a school governor at Ashlyn's School stems from a commitment to enriching the educational journey of every child. By championing high-quality education and fostering personal growth opportunities, I aim to leverage my background in business and technology to not only support the school's strategic vision but also instigate positive change within our local community.

Paula Williamson

I am a mother of three children and a Human Resources leader working in the Civil Service. My role is Head of Employee Experience and I lead a team to look after people culture and strategy, leadership development, inclusion and wellbeing. In addition, I volunteer on school committees, Berkhamsted Youth Theatre committee and I am an Enterprise (career) Advisor at Hemel Hempstead School. I think my skills and experience would make me an excellent candidate to be a School Governor.