



Profiles of Avonreach Academy Trust Trustees

September 2018

Trustees

- Clive Corbett
- Andrew Longdon
- Phil Hanson
- Heather Thomson
- Ann Derbyshire
- Rob Philips
- Ian Cumming
- Martin Allen
- Julia Dean
- Sarah Bitcon
- Heidi Fear
- Bob Stanton

Co-Opted Trustee

- Judy Wood

Clive Corbett

Avonreach Academy Trust Executive Officer

Ex-Officio Trustee

Date of Appointment: 1st August 2017



In August 2017 Clive Corbett retired as Head teacher of Pershore High School after 15 years in the post, and 38 years in education altogether (including senior leadership roles in 3 secondary schools and a Deputy Headship).

Since retiring Clive has established an educational consultancy and publishing business which provides support to schools, and has taken on the part-time role of Executive Officer of the Avonreach Academy Trust. In addition, Clive is the Lead Director of the “Schools of Tomorrow” Fellowship, and is also a Local Leader in Education and a Fellow of the University of Worcester.

Clive believes passionately in the need to secure the well-being of young people, through the support of local communities, so that they are prepared for the future in the broadest sense of the word. This is evidenced through his work with the “Schools of Tomorrow” Fellowship; his work as a Trustee for the Pershore Riverside Youth Centre ; his Teacher Advocate work and his role as Local Facilitator/Coach/Mentor for the NPQH.

In his spare time, Clive is the current President of Kinver Rotary Club, whose charitable efforts for 2018 are centred around raising funds for Place2Be, to remember always the work of Lucy Alexander and the loss of her son Felix. He is determined to still find time to add to the three books that he has so far written on his beloved Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club.

Andrew Longdon

Chair of Trustees

Date of Appointment: 1st August 2017



Andrew first became a Parent Governor at Norton Juxta Kempsey C of E First School in October 2005. At the time his first son was a Year 3 pupil and his second son had just started in Reception. Over those first few years of experiencing the modern education system as a parent, it became apparent to Andrew that things had changed since he was in the system as a pupil, some twenty plus years before. The main reason for Andrew wanting to become a Governor was to have a greater understanding of these new ways of teaching and, to be honest, to use that knowledge to help support his children with their education whilst helping the school in whatever way he could.

Andrew certainly hadn't expected to still be a Governor over 12 years later, let alone Chair of Trustees of a Multi Academy Trust. It is a very different role to the one that Andrew gets paid for (Technical Manager for a company making seals for cars, aircraft and all sorts of industrial equipment), but what drives Andrew to stay involved, through sometimes very difficult times, is the amazing dedication of the education professionals and the volunteers that support them to provide the best possible education to the children in our schools, essentially maximizing their potential for their lives to come in an increasingly competitive world.

On a weekly basis, Andrew sees examples of that dedication throughout all four schools that make up the Avonreach Academy Trust, where collaborative working at all levels is bringing very tangible benefits and he looks forward to doing whatever he can to help the Trust flourish, develop and grow over the coming years.

Heather Thomson

Headteacher



Heather began her teaching career in 1979 in Norfolk working in a small 8 – 12 Middle School, and has since worked in a number of other local authorities including Herefordshire, Surrey and Gloucestershire in first, primary and middle schools.

Heather has been Head Teacher at Inkberrow First School for the last fourteen years and has helped move the school from Satisfactory to Outstanding (2014).

Heather is trained as a National Leader of Education (NLE) and has enjoyed supporting a number of schools in that capacity. With regard to her NLE work Heather states that “It is a privilege to work with other colleagues across the country . Inkberrow First School has benefitted tremendously from the professional dialogues we have had as part of the on-going support”.

Heather advises that Inkberrow First School is always looking for ways to improve the education for pupils and that the school is delighted to be working with Avonreach Academy Trust in moving the school forward.

Heather is married with four children between them (all girls!) and has an elderly Chocolate Labrador. She enjoys walking, baking, painting and going on holiday!

Phil Hanson

Headteacher



Phil has taught in secondary schools in West Sussex and Worcestershire since completing his Geography Degree and subsequent PGCE qualification in 1991. He has been in senior leadership roles in a number of schools for 19 years, most recently at Pershore High School, where he was Deputy Headteacher until August 2017 at which point in time he was appointed Headteacher of Pershore High School.

Phil believes that the education that we provide for those in our care should be recognised in the broadest sense – exam results are important, but developing well-rounded young people with a desire to find out more is at the heart of his personal educational philosophy.

Ann Derbyshire

Trustee

Date of Appointment: 1st August 2017



Ann has a background in Education, having been Deputy-Head, and also Acting Head, at Stratford High School prior to her retirement. Ann has also undertaken Governance Roles at a number of local schools throughout her career, and is currently the Chair of Governors at Inkberrow First School – having joined the Inkberrow First School Governing Body in 2007.

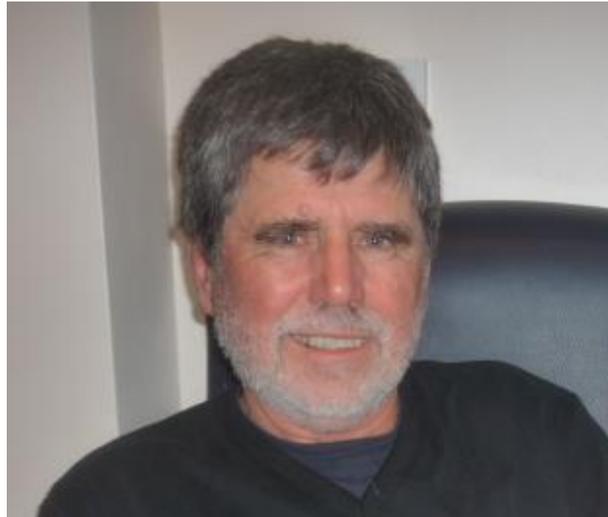
Ann has a personal connection with Inkberrow First School, one of the founding schools within the Avonreach Academy Trust, as her children and her grand-children have all attended the school.

Ann believes that everyone can excel at something, and that schools' should provide the opportunity for all pupils to explore their abilities and that they should support all students in achieving their potential.

Rob Phillips

Trustee

Date of Appointment: 1st August 2017



Rob's background is in business and lecturing. He was employed in Further and Higher education for over thirty years, during which time he helped many small businesses to develop, and taught on post graduate and professional courses. Rob has also written a number of degree level open learning programmes.

In addition to the above, Rob has been involved in running three small businesses and has worked overseas as a manager on British Aid and United Nations development programmes in Fiji and the South Pacific region.

Rob retired from full-time employment in 2010, but continues to work as a part-time consultant. Rob's four children attended Pershore High School, where he has been a governor for over 25 years and where he was Chair of Governors from 2005 until 2017. Rob is pleased to be able to continue his contribution to local education as a Trustee of the Avonreach MAT.

Professor Ian Cumming OBE

Trustee

Date of Appointment: 1st August 2017



Ian started his career in the NHS as a Biomedical Scientist, and later worked as a Research Scientist in coagulation disorders before moving into NHS Leadership in the early 1990's. He has held a variety of NHS general management posts, including over 11 years as Chief Executive of acute hospital Trusts, followed by three years as the Chief Executive of a healthcare commissioning organisation prior to being appointed Chief Executive of the NHS in the West Midlands in 2009.

In 2012, Ian was appointed Chief Executive of Health Education England (HEE). Ian has a particular interest in the development of leadership skills in clinical staff, and is an Honorary Professor of Healthcare Leadership in the Medical School at Lancaster University.

In 2003 Ian was awarded the OBE for services to the NHS and in 2010 Ian was made an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

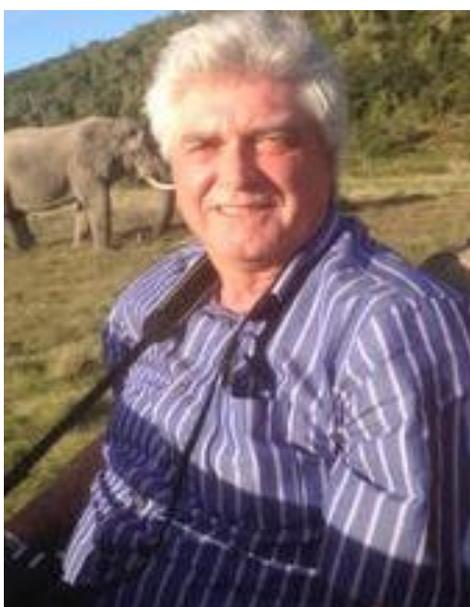
Ian has a special interest in sports medicine, an area in which he holds an MSC. Ian became a board member of Sport England in 2016.

Outside work, Ian is a qualified level 3 swimming coach, working closely with young people to develop their swimming abilities, a keen snow skier and enjoys sailing, walking and watching rugby union.

Martin Allen

Trustee

Date of Appointment: 1st August 2017



Martin has been employed in the education sector since 1974, during which time he has undertaken a number of roles, including Headteacher of a First School in Redditch, Primary Inspector, School Improvement Adviser, and Head of Worcestershire Governor Services. Martin retired in 2016, however since that time he has continued his involvement in education through his work as an Educational Consultant and as a Trustee of Avonreach Academy Trust.

Martin is the Safeguarding Trustee for Avonreach Academy Trust, and is also a member of the Ethos and Community Committee.

Martin believes that the formation of Avonreach Academy Trust offers a unique opportunity to better meet the needs of our pupils throughout their journey through school, and to drive improved outcomes for pupils.

Julia Dean

Headteacher



Julia began her teaching career in 1993 and has worked in schools in Birmingham and Worcestershire.

Julia was appointed as headteacher of Norton Juxta Kempsey CE First School in 2008. She thoroughly enjoys the role of headteacher and states: 'I am deeply committed to providing the very best education for all children in a supportive, happy and caring environment'.

Norton Juxta Kempsey is a church school and Julia welcomes the support of the diocese and local clergy to ensure that the school is at the heart of the community. The school became an outstanding church school following the SIAMS (Section 48) inspection in February 2016.

Julia is delighted that the school is now part of the Avonreach Academy Trust as she feels this will continue to improve the educational outcomes for all pupils. Julia is married with two sons. She loves running, reading and planning exciting holidays for the family to enjoy.

Sarah Bitcon

Headteacher



Sarah began her teaching career in Cornwall in 1991 teaching in a single form entry primary school, she has since worked in Primary, First and Infants schools across Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.

Sarah has been Headteacher at Cherry Orchard since 2006 and in that time the school has seen many positive developments moving from satisfactory to good and developing an 'Outstanding' Early Years setting (2010).

Sarah strongly believes in making sure that their children have as many opportunities as possible, steering the school to approach the curriculum in an innovative way and ensuring the school continually challenges itself to provide the children with the very best. All at Cherry Orchard are excited about the opportunities that being part of Avonreach Trust will provide for their children, families and staff to develop and continue to learn.

Sarah is married with two grown up daughters that have benefited from attending schools within our local pyramid. Outside of work Sarah tries hard to keep fit!

Heidi Fear

Trustee

Date of Appointment: 1st August 2017

Bob Stanton

Trustee

Date of Appointment: 1st August 2017

Judy Wood

Co-Opted Trustee

Date of Appointment: 1st August 2017

Judy has more than 25 years' experience of working in communications, and is currently Head of Internal Communications for a large utility company.

Through her employment she has obtained extensive experience of corporate communication, including the communication of information relating to take-overs, mergers, acquisitions and major structural change.

Judy has two children at Pershore High School, including one in the Sixth form, and she therefore has a good knowledge of the Pershore Pyramid system.

Judy is a member of the Ethos and Community Committee, which is responsible for monitoring the work of all schools in promoting and fostering good relationships with parents/carers and the local community.