

## Meet our Members and Trustees (in alphabetical order):

### Members



**Bryony Leonard**  
(Member)

I was appointed as the Local Education Authority Governor in December 2013. I elected to join the Finance and Planning Committee as I have an interest in how schools and colleges develop and how they face the constant changes to their operating procedures in light of Government changes and reform.

My current role is with a national Awarding Organisation managing a suite of qualifications for both Apprentices and people employed within the sector who want to develop their skills and knowledge. Previously I have worked for a County based Further Education College managing their Apprenticeship provision which included performance against contract and also for 2 private training providers within the County.

The opportunity to become a Governor in a 14-18 environment was of great interest to me as I see this as being an opportunity to develop my own knowledge to understand the challenges faced by all parents and children when thinking 'what next'. I feel that my previous experience will assist the College in maintaining the current high standards and achievements and help it move forward as policy and focus changes.



**Kathryn Lupton**  
(Member)

I am really pleased to have the opportunity to join as a Trustee at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus. I was one of the first years to attend Brookvale High School in 1975, the academic year before me transferred from Charnwood halfway through the year. Both of my children also attended BGLC, one having just achieved a First in Cyber Security, and my daughter has just started a PHD in Creative Writing.

During my working life I have mainly been involved in Project Management Roles. When I left school I was a Commercial Apprentice at Marconi Radar Systems but went on to attend De Montfort University in the evenings to do a Post Graduate Diploma in Operations Management. Whilst my children were at school I worked in the Voluntary Sector. As a Volunteer Coordinator I worked within Education to find STEM Ambassadors to go into schools to support young people with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. I also recruited volunteers on the Right to Read Project which supported children in Primary Schools to help with reading. As my children have now become independent I have gone back into Industry and now work at Cavendish Nuclear as a Project Assistant.

Whilst my children attended Ratby Primary School I was a governor culminating in becoming Chair of Governors when the school achieved Academic Status.

I have always been interested in education and feel that my background and experience will help me in my role as a Trustee at BGLC.

### Trustees



**Connor Acton**

(Chair of Trustees)

E:cacton@brookvalegroby.com

With over a decade of experience across four diverse secondary schools – working in support staff, teaching and leadership positions – I am delighted to offer my skills and knowledge to support Brookvale Groby Learning Campus as a Trustee and Chair of the Board.

I have previously held other educational governance positions as Chair of Governors at a Leicestershire primary school, as well as being a local authority appointed governor and a member of a cluster governing board for a range of primary schools. Further to this, I hold governance experience outside of education, currently serving as Chair of Trustees for a large, local charity.

I have a large amount of experience in pastoral care, currently I sit on the National Executive Board for the Association of Pastoral Care, and I am a Designated Safeguarding Lead which links well to my Trustee link for safeguarding. In addition, I am currently undertaking the National Professional Qualification for Headship.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of the Brookvale Groby Board of Trustees and hope that I can continue to provide both support and challenge to create the best life opportunities for the children and young adults of the BGLC community, particularly whilst the educational landscape provides some of the most difficult challenges for schools in recent memory.



**Brian Jones**

(Chair of

Education & Standards Committee)

I was appointed Chief Executive Officer at the SENAD Group in June 2006. Prior to this I acted as the group's Chief Operations Officer.

I have worked at CEO and Director level within local authorities, as well as the voluntary and independent sector. I have significant experience in the design and set up of high quality children and adult services across Britain. With this expertise, I lead the group in its vision to provide a comprehensive network of educational and residential care services, working in partnership with young people, parents and local authorities.



**Roger Kerridge**

(Trustee)

Having spent the whole of my working life in Banking, the Education sector is new territory for me but a challenge which I relish. I took full retirement in 2021 after 45 years with Lloyds Bank where my roles included Senior Management and in the latter years as a Credit Underwriter specialising in real estate. I also lectured at the Bank's Management College on lending to businesses.

I have a passion for seeing high quality standards in the delivery of education and was delighted to have been given the opportunity to become a Trustee of Brookvale Groby and a member of the Finance and Operations Committee. Groby is a relatively new community to me, having lived for the last 25 years in Gilmorton, with my office in Birmingham. However, I was kindly given a tour of the school early 2023 and I was taken by the sense of calmness and organisation around the campus, also in truth the respect paid by the students.

My request to join the board is not entirely selfless, as I have a personal desire to bring an added sense of purpose to my life post retirement and to keep myself mentally challenged. I very much welcome the prospect of this additional focus and hope that the skills I have learned will help shape the future of BGLC.



**Paul Miller**

(Trustee)

I joined the governing body for BGLC in May 2022, as a non-parent trustee. Alongside membership of the Board, I am also a member of the Finance and Operations Committee.

I have almost a decade of experience working in the Civil Service, supporting the government to make decisions relating to local government and devolution throughout the UK. My specialism has been ensuring places have the right leadership to build strong economies and communities across the country. I intend to use my experience of promoting good governance, managing large public budgets and working within a network of public and private stakeholders to support the Board, BGLC and – most importantly – our students and staff.

As a former student of Brookvale (and) Groby, I am passionate about making sure the school will help current and future generations of students to maximise their potential and thrive.



**Liyakatalli Sonde**

(Chair of Finance and Operations Committee)

I have worked in the IT industry for over twenty years with a large chunk of that time spent working with the education sector. For the last seven years I have been working as an IT consultant specialising in Microsoft Cloud Technologies.

I have been a governor at a primary school in Loughborough for seven years prior to joining the team here at Brookvale and I have a passion for education. Having been born and brought up in Leicester I feel being a governor/trustee is a way for me to give something back to the education system that, to some extent, got me to where I am today.

I believe education is the key to our future, namely our children. I hope the school can benefit from my experience of both the education sector and IT, and I am looking forward to being part of the team that helps build on the success that Brookvale Groby already is, and in turn our future.



**Helen Speechley**

(Seconded to Finance and Operations Committee)

I joined the governing body in February 2021 and in particular the finance and Operations Committee.

I am an ACCA qualified accountant and internal auditor with extensive, varied experience and considerable versatility. an enthusiastic, pragmatic can-do leader, strong at providing data analysis and insight, solving problems and building relationships with demonstrable ability of effective team engagement and development. successful in change management and the implementation of controls, systems and procedures.

I am employed by Dunelm Group plc. the UK's largest homewares retailer with a portfolio of over 170 stores, a significant online presence and a turnover of over £1 billion. reatlier



**Karl Stewart**

(Vice Chair of Trustees)

I have been in education for the past 25 years. 12 years as a Primary Headteacher in Leicester City. I intend to use some of my knowledge and experience to support and challenge Brookvale Groby Learning Campus in providing an excellent education for all, and being a campus to be proud of.



**Helen Stockill**  
(Trustee)

As governors we have an important responsibility for helping to ensure that our school is performing well and is continually seeking to improve. I have been involved as a governor at Brookvale Groby since 2012.

I have over ten years experience working in and supporting school governance and I try to apply that experience and expertise in my role. My perspective of governance is also informed by my own experience of having children at the school. I feel this gives me a useful insight although I think my children would rather this not be the case! Prior to becoming a self-confessed 'governance geek', I spent ten years working for a large national retailer specialising in finance and operations.



**Mrs Clare Walters**  
(Trustee)

I took an interest in the Trustee role in October 2021 following a request for applications; As a parent of a child at Groby Brookvale I felt it important to understand the educational process and how these decisions are made. As a CAMHS Learning Disability Nurse and working with children and young people across different services including Education there are a number of transferable skills, however, going through the trustee process there are also lots of new skills to learn and add to my experience which is very exciting. As a trustee on the Educational Standards committee it is very interesting to see how things evolve and how to hold the school accountable for the decisions made in relation to policies, procedures and what is taught within the school.

## Other Committee Members



**Will Teece**  
(Headteacher)

I have over twenty years experience within education and have occupied a wide range of leadership roles in that time. I have worked in a variety of different settings, but much of my experience has been within challenging inner city schools. I have always found this deeply rewarding and have served some amazing communities.

Before joining Brookvale Groby Learning Campus, I was Principal of one of the highest performing schools in the country and part of a large Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Within this MAT, I led Outcomes across the Trust and chaired the Principal's Development Group, working closely with the Executive Team advising on strategy.

I also work for PIXL, a national organisation of over 1700 schools, seeking to develop and share outstanding practice within all settings and creating a brighter hope for the future for all of our children. Currently I work as a PIXL Associate, supporting several schools across the East Midlands and am part of their Strategic POSH Committee. I have supported a number of schools within my previous roles and am a firm believer in partnership work and collaboration.

As Headteacher of Brookvale Groby Learning Campus, I am dedicated to ensuring that we offer the best possible educational experience to our students and to serve the community we are within.



**Emma Brayne**  
(Staff Representative)

I joined Brookvale Groby Learning Campus in 2013 as Lead Teacher of Food after working for a number of years in inner city schools. Prior to that, I spent 10 years in the food industry starting as a Graduate Trainee for Samworth Brothers then working in training, NPD and process development with major food companies. This has given me a broad experience of both private and public sectors within education and industry. I believe this will allow me to provide the Trust with a balanced understanding of business and education to take BGLC forward as both an educator and Trustee.



**Deborah Phipps**  
(Clerk to The Trust Board)

Since January 2022, I have been part of the Administration and Reception team at BGLC and have taken on the role of PA to the Senior Deputy Headteacher and Clerk to Trustees. My attention to detail, organisational skills and logical approach to tasks I carry out mean that I deliver a second to none level of customer service at all times. With my previous administrative experience and work in both office and classroom based roles at an SEN Secondary school, I feel I have a thorough understanding of what the Trust require. This will allow me to effectively support the Trustee Board and Committees in their duties of ensuring BGLC continues to succeed.