



A Foundation School with Specialist Status in Engineering

ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

GOVERNING BODY 2009



GOVERNOR PROFILES SEPTEMBER 2009

Name	Governor Status	Business/ Engineering Experience	Community Links	Educational Experience
David Hermitt	Staff	Graduate Engineer		Headteacher
Janet Newton	Staff	Farming		Guidance Team Leader
Carol Taylor	Staff	ICI	Youth Club organiser	School Technical Service Manager
Helen Vale	Staff			Curriculum Team Leader (Art)
Jill Cust	Parent	Banking, Project Management		
Fiona Hampton	Parent	Berisfords		
Rachel Hodges	Parent	Astra Zeneca	Scouts and New Life Church	
David Hogg	Parent	Astra Zeneca		
Craig Priday	Parent	SMS Mevac		
Keith Vickers	Parent	Acoustics Engineer	Astbury Primary School	
Ian Wilton	Parent			Special School Headteacher
Richard Benson	Community	Astra Zeneca		
Geoff Eardley	Community	Small Business Owner		
Richard Hinckley	Community	Retired Engineer	P & N Footpath Society	
Jane Millward	Community			Headteacher/ LA Officer
Andy Pear	Community	Business owner		
Cllr David Brown	L.A.			
Mr Michael Cooper	L.A.		Dane Housing	
Neil Eardley	Partnership	Siemens		
Prof Torfeh Sadat-Shafai	Partnership	Professor		Staffordshire University
Head Boy and Head Girl	Associate			

Staff Governors

David Hermitt



David is married with 4 children.

He has been Headteacher at Congleton High School since September 2005.

He studied Engineering at Sheffield University before completing a PGCE and becoming a Science Teacher at a large school in Rotherham. He was promoted to Head of Physics in Doncaster and then progressed to become Head of Science at a large urban school in South Derbyshire. In 1997 he became part of the Senior Leadership Team of a large semi-rural School in North Derbyshire as Assistant Headteacher. He has the unusual experience of starting a new Church of England sponsored school in Inner city Nottingham in 2002. He was appointed Deputy Headteacher and later became its acting Headteacher in 2004.

Janet Newton



Janet is a Guidance Team Leader at the school.

She teaches English and has an additional responsibility for developing literacy across the curriculum. She also acts as Professional Mentor for the Initial Teacher Training programme at the school.

Carol Taylor



I am married with three children, 2 sons and 1 daughter, who all attended Heathfield High School and Congleton High School. I like to play badminton, cycling and I am a fair weather gardener.

I began my career at ICI Alderley Park in research in the Chemistry Department and continued studies through day release for five years, gaining an honours degree in Chemistry, GRIC, Graduate of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. Following a 10 year break to raise my family I began a part-time position as science technician at Dane Valley High School. When the schools were re-organised in 200 I was appointed as Technical Services Manager at Congleton High School and have remained at the school since that time.

As well as my scientific skills, my more recent role at the school has enabled me to develop management of people skills. During my children's time at Heathfield High I took an active role in the PTA. For 7 years I organised a youth club for pupils in years 7 -9 which ran once a month.

Helen Vale



Helen is the Curriculum Team Leader for Art at the school.

She joined the staff in September 2005.

She has taken on the role of SEAL co-ordinator.

Parent Governors

Jill Cust



I have been married for over 30 years and have one son. I enjoy gardening, walking, theatre and tap dancing. My career began at Barclays Bank and for over 25 years I held a number of varied roles, clerical, supervisory and management across many departments and in several geographical locations. I have worked part-time since the birth of my son. I am currently a project manager, managing change into a call centre for large corporate customers.

Throughout my career I have developed considerable experience in many areas including managing teams of staff, meeting productivity targets, business analyst of change and how it impacts current processes, assessing training needs and delivering training and procedures. I have also been responsible for delivering technical solutions into the business environments and high quality customer service. Through my son's activities I have forged links with Vale Juniors Football Team and Mossley Cricket Club.

Fiona Hampton



I am married with 2 children at secondary school. I was born in Knutsford and have lived in Congleton for 35 years. Since graduating in 1986 with a B.A. in Clothing Studies, I have been employed by Berisfords Ltd in Congleton. Berisfords specialises in Ribbons and Trimming for Textiles and Packaging and has been in Congleton for 150 years, employing 100 people. Initially I was employed as Customer Contact Designer, liaising with major High Street stores such as Marks and Spencer, Body Shop and Thorntons. My role then developed and I became Marketing Manager, with the objective of developing new products and communicating with the textile and packaging markets. In 1995 I was appointed Marketing and Design Director, responsible for worldwide marketing through web design, brochures, direct mail and customer presentation, promoting Berisfords as the UK's largest ribbon manufacturer.

I have a wide range of business and organisational skills involving sales, marketing, departmental and corporate budget control. In addition I have attended many business related courses involving team building, managing organisational change, customer relationship management and finance. These, on top of the marketing and design attributes, ensure that I have an overall understanding of business organisation, planning and control. Managing a team has also involved recruitment, knowledge of disciplinary procedures and business law, which are relevant when restructuring, reviewing and re-organising. I am currently involved with Congleton Regeneration Partnership as part of the Marketing Team to transform Congleton with the 'Beartown' Brand. Our main aim is to create a brand for the town that can be used by local businesses, schools and clubs to promote Congleton as the place to live, work and learn.

Rachel Hodges



I am married to Mark and we have three children. Our sons, Jack and Adam, are both at Congleton High School and our daughter Kate has just started at The Quinta Primary School. In my spare time I enjoy reading, gardening, cooking, DIY, walking and camping. For over 25 years I have worked at the AstraZeneca Alderley Park site, originally for ICI. I work full-time as a Section Lead in the Research Quality Management Group and in addition lead process improvement projects. Several years ago I gained the Diploma in Research Quality Assurance and continued to study through the Open University to achieve qualifications in Professional Management. More recently, I have completed an MSc in Quality Management. I am also a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. Over time, I have gained experience in the monitoring and implementation of regulations required for compliance by the pharmaceutical industry, and expertise in Quality Management, Project Management, training, working in a global environment and leading cross-functional global project teams.

I am a member of the New Life Church in Congleton and Scout Leader for the 1st Congleton Scout Group. In addition, I am supporter and member of the PIP (Parents in Partnership) at Congleton High School.

David Hogg



I have lived in Congleton for 15 years, apart from a 3 year spell in Italy. I am married to Karen with one daughter in Year 7 at the school. My hobbies and interests include 5-a-side football, cooking, real ale (see below) and Glentoran FC (Belfast).

I have worked for ICI/Zeneca/AstraZeneca for 22 years, with spells in Grangemouth, Bristol, Macclesfield and Milan. I am qualified with an M.Eng. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. During my career I have worked as a Project Engineer and a Process Automation Manager before moving into Quality Systems Management and ultimately Quality Assurance and Auditing in the IT area. Outside of work I am actively involved with Congleton Round Table, including a spell as Chairman, and heavily involved in organising the Congleton Summer Beer Festival and the Round Table Santa Float.

Craig Priday



I live in Congleton with my wife and our two children, who both study at Congleton High School. In my spare time I enjoy music, gardening and gadgets. I have a BSc (Hons) in Metallurgy and Materials Science from Imperial College, London. I started as a metallurgist with British Steel and moved to Cheshire to SMS Mevac UK in 1990. SMS Mevac is an international engineering company supplying capital equipment for the processing of liquid steel. During my time with the company I have carried out various project engineering and management roles and for the last 8 years I have been Managing Director. SMS Mevac supports the school by sponsoring competitions, participating in engineering events and offering work experience to CHS students.

During my career I have engineered and commissioned large scale machines for customers worldwide. In order to be successful I have had to be practical, adaptable, self motivated, display good problem solving skills, and most importantly, common sense. As Managing Director I need good people skills, and of course be able to handle financial information and see the "big picture". I became a Parent Governor in 2005 because I wanted to help make the school a good place for my children to learn.

Keith Vickers



As a father of four children, two of whom current attend Congleton High School, my current hobby is being a parent to my four children.

I have an Honours degree in Electroacoustics. My present role is Applications Specialist for a global company supplying solutions in sound and vibration. Its customers include Automotive, Aerospace / Defence and general industry. Previous experience has included working as Telecommunications Development Engineer and Project Manager (Military Communications). I am a member of the Institute of Acoustics. I have experience in all aspects of environmental, occupational and industrial noise and vibration applications. A significant part of my employment includes training.

Ian Wilton



I am married to Geraldine who is also a qualified teacher. We have a daughter, currently in Year 9 and a son who is due to start Year 7 in September 2009. We have lived in Congleton for almost 10 years. With nearly 25 years experience as a teacher in 'residential special schools' (Dyslexia, SEBD and Aspergers Syndrome), the last ten as Headteacher, I have considerable experience of setting up new educational establishments, devising alternative educational programmes, and particular interest and skills in Health & Safety, Outdoor Education and Managing Challenging Behaviours. During this time I have taught GCSE courses in PE and Geography, alongside Behaviour Management and Thinking Skills courses, as well as an extensive range of Outdoor & Adventurous Activities (home and abroad).

During the limited time I can generate away from work, the great outdoors (walking, climbing, caving, canoeing and geocaching) still provides both a source of distraction and relaxation. I am also an active supporter of the Vale Juniors Football Club (currently Under 11 squad), and can occasionally be found on a tennis court. I am professionally respected as a 'good listener', and a proactive exponent of raising standards and questioning established protocols.

Community Governors

Richard Benson
Vice Chair



My name is Richard Benson and I am married with two children. I live locally and I have been a Governor at Congleton High School since its inception. I am currently serving as Community Governor but previously serviced as a Parent Governor while my children were being educated here.

I previously worked for AstraZeneca as an IT Manager for over thirty years, but I am now pursuing a new career as a semi-professional executive with responsibility for planning in respect of a local partnership. I am also a Trustee for a local charity serving East Cheshire. In my time at AstraZeneca I learnt a lot about dealing with change and I believe that this experience has helped me to support the school as the educational system across the country faces up to a period of continual change.

In my spare time I like to keep fit by running and I can often be seen pounding the streets and lanes in and around Congleton. I have run five marathons and I tentatively plan to run my final marathon in three years time when I am sixty. I believe passionately in the value of a good education and I am very proud to serve as a Governor of this school.

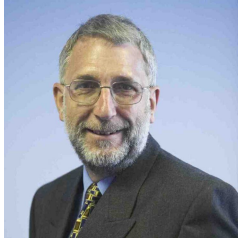
Geoff Eardley



I am married with three sons, who all received a well-balanced education at this site, and have gained success in their chosen fields. Following many years in business I have now been put out to pasture in my retirement.

I first became a Parent Governor here over 30 years ago and was one of the first people in the country to successfully complete the Open University Course on governing schools. Sometime later, when my children left the school, I was co-opted onto the Governing Body. When the school became Congleton High School I was asked by the Local Authority to be one of their representatives at the school. 20 years of my service have been as Chairman and I also chaired the Transitional Governors during the Reorganisation of Education in Congleton. I find the role of Governor extremely rewarding. It is an opportunity to utilise my skills and experiences to help the school and it is very enjoyable to work with such a diverse and committed team.

Richard Hinckley
Chair of Governors



After graduating as an electronics engineer I spent my career in the computer industry until I retired. During that period I performed many engineering and management roles, qualified as a professional project manager and finished my career as divisional head of project management for a major computer company.

I first became a governor of Heathfield School in 1988 and was part of the Governing Body that oversaw the difficult period of school amalgamation in Congleton, and the creation of Congleton High School. I have been Vice-Chair of Governors and Chair of the Premises, Community and Business Sub-Committee since Congleton High School was formed. I am also a member of the Head Teacher's Performance Review Panel, and I am Link Governor for Health & Safety, Safeguarding Children and Investors in People.

I would like to think that my industrial and management experience, coupled with my 20 years as a Governor is of benefit to the school. My motivation in being involved is because I passionately believe that a good education will give the children of our community a better start in their adult lives, whatever their ability and background.

Jane Millward



Jane Millward has served as a parent governor as well as a community Governor. She is married with two children who attend the school.

She was been a local Primary Headteacher before she joined the Local Authority in an advisory capacity. She is currently working for Cheshire East in a senior position with responsibility for primary schools.

She has a wealth of experience in Curriculum and Assessment.

Andy Pear



Andy Pear was born and still lives in Congleton, he is married with four children and enjoys horse riding and clay pigeon shooting as hobbies. He was educated at Sandbach Grammar School and went on to join Lewis's Selfridges department stores, before pursuing a career in Medical sales and marketing. He went to university in 1998 and was awarded an MBA.

Andy is a businessman, together with his wife Sue, he owns three local businesses, Reliance Medical Ltd, Pecks Restaurant Ltd and Pear Property Developments Ltd. All three of these businesses are very successful. He is heavily involved with the British Healthcare Trades Association and works for the British Standards Institute within European Standards Committees.

Andy chaired the Parents in Partnership group for three years and has been a governor for seven years. He has had three children at the school, two of them are still students. Andy believes that his business knowledge is valuable to the school where he performs the role of a critical friend within the board of governors.

Local Authority Governors

Cllr David Brown



David Brown has been a Councillor for since 1999. He was Deputy Leader of Congleton Borough Council and has also served on Congleton Town Council. A retired director of Retail Systems for ICL, he is governor for two schools, including Congleton High School.

He has a cabinet position within the newly formed Cheshire East Local Authority where he is responsible for Performance and Capacity.

David has two grown up children and his hobbies include gardening, golf and football.

Mr Michael Cooper



Before I qualified for a free bus pass I was employed as a research chemist by Astra Zeneca at Alderley Park. I was a member of Congleton Borough Council for over twenty five years, prior to local government reorganisation, where I was chairman of the personnel and taxi-licensing committees and vice-chairman of the planning committee.

I have been a Board Member of Dane Housing Group for ten years. Following the merger of Dane Housing Group with the Liverpool based Plus Housing Group to form the PlusDane Group I was appointed to service on the joint HR committee.

In my spare time I enjoy reading, gardening and cooking and I have joined the Congleton Family History Society.

Partnership Governors

Neil Eardley



I am married to Jill and have one daughter. In my free time I enjoy motocross, skiing and snowboarding.

At the onset of my career I was initially trained through an Engineering apprenticeship scheme. Most of my career has been spent at Siemens working through a number of external academic post graduate courses, whilst following the Siemens leadership learning framework.

Through my role as Manufacturing Manager, I manage everything related to managing a manufacturing business, including budget management, performance measurement, material procurement, supply chain management, logistics, people management, and engineering etc.

As Governor I believe that local businesses should take a more active role in the development of our youth as these will one day become our future. As a local engineering employer I feel it is our duty to ensure we engage with local schools, in particular with Congleton High School with its Engineering status.

Professor
Torfeh Sadat Shafai



I have six children of which 5 have been educated at the school and the youngest joins the school in 2009. I am very much family orientated and enjoy cooking for family and friends. I also enjoy woodwork and a variety of sports such as football and basketball.

I am Professor of Physical Electronics at Staffordshire University. I am committed to high quality teaching with more than 25 years experience at National and International level. This has involved curriculum development for a large number of undergraduate and postgraduate awards, success in securing external funding, external examiner and advisor for several UK and overseas Universities, and I am a member of the steering committee for work based learning MSc at the Engineering Council UK.

I became a governor as my children were students at the school and I had a considerable interest in promoting the school's activities and enhancing its profile. In September 2002 I was elected as Community Governor. This has enabled me to support CHS in a much bigger capacity to gain Engineering Status. During this period I was able to create a partnership with a school in Hamburg and also the Technical University of Hamburg, where I held the Chair of Professor of General Engineering for the International Engineering Programme. Currently I have set up a partnership with Staffordshire University Faculty of Computing Engineering and Technology which enables CHS students to visit the University and improve their engineering skills.

Associate Governors

Head Boy & Head Girl Each year the Head boy and Head Girl become Associate Governors as part of their role. They are invited to attend each full governor meeting to represent the views of the student body. They are joint chairs of the student Council and In the Autumn Term they carry out a survey of all students to gain their views. These will then be presented to the full Governors in the Spring Term.