

Ponteland High School - Governing Body 2024-25 Profiles



Barry Hirst (Chair of Governors) Health and Safety Wellbeing

Gained his BSc and PhD at Newcastle University.

Emeritus Professor of Physiology at Newcastle University and previously Dean of Postgraduate Studies. A Newcastle University student Academic Appeals adjudicator. Other interests include chair of the NHS Health Research Authority Newcastle & North Tyneside 2 Research Ethics Committee, chair of the Academy for Healthcare Science Education, Training & Standards Committee, and external panel member for NHS Centre for Advanced Practice accreditation. Group Scout Leader for 1st Ponteland Scout Group.

Barry Hirst can be contacted via correspondence to the school address or email b.hirst@ponthigh.org.uk and

Clare Barker, Clerk to the Governors
c.barker@ponthigh.org.uk

Resident of Darras Hall, married with two children who were educated in the Ponteland (Darras Hall First, Ponteland Middle and High) schools.

No business or pecuniary interests held



Carole Butler (Co-opted Governor) Attendance and Safeguarding Governor

Originally from south west Lancashire, I have been a Ponteland resident for over 40 years; both my children were born in the north east and were educated through the Ponteland schools. During the whole of my career, I worked in the NHS and have a science background.

I have served as a school governor for many years, now at the High School, but originally at Ponteland First School, and Richard Coates Middle School. My aim as a governor is to support the High School staff and to see every student achieve their best.

No business or pecuniary interests held



Modaser Choudhary (Parent Governor)

I have recently become a parent governor at the school. I am a qualified accountant and having spent several years working in the Financial Services in both the UK and abroad, I am currently serving as Finance Director at Durham University.

Business and Pecuniary interests declared

1. Interim Finance Transformation Director at Everyturn Mental Health - July 2024
2. Interim Finance Director at Advance Northumberland Limited - July 2024
3. Governor at Education Partnership North East - September 2024



Pat Cox (LA Governor)
SEND/Safeguarding Governor

I have lived in Ponteland for almost 40 years after returning from living and working in the Middle East in the Banking sector. Once my daughter was fully settled in school I returned to the work place initially on a very part time basis firstly with the Department of Trade and Industry and then with a leading Children's charity. This became the most satisfying 20+ years of any job I had had and together with my previous experience, this lead me to become a governor at Ponteland High School. It is a great privilege to work with our governors and school professionals to achieve the best outcomes for our students in a nurturing but challenging environment.

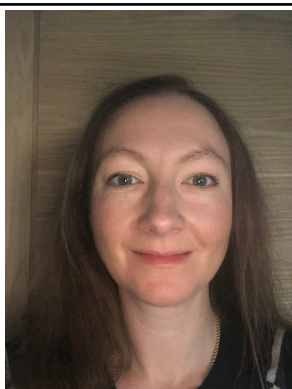
No business or pecuniary interests held



Rebecca Trevarrow
Wellbeing

I am pleased to be a member of the Academic Committee, with the opportunity to support the school to meet its aims for every child to be happy, feel safe and secure and achieve exceptionally well. I am an Occupational Therapist with further qualifications in Sensory Integration. I have worked in the NHS for over 25 years in various mental health settings. My current role is in Positive and Safe Care, delivering on a number of quality improvement initiatives across inpatient services. I am also involved in designing and delivering academic programmes at various levels. Good mental health and wellbeing of pupils and staff is an area that particularly interests me. My son and daughter currently attend Ponteland High School, having previously been at Ponteland Primary School.

No business or pecuniary interests held



Lisa Lamb (Parent Governor)

I joined the Academy Committee as I believe that education provides the foundation to a successful and happy future for the young people of our community. I believe that Ponteland High School is an aspirational and dynamic secondary school which is in the continuing process of very significant development and challenges at this time. Rigorous and clearly documented scrutiny and accountability enhances the reputation of this institution that is at the heart of our local community.

In my job, I daily advise magistrates on the law. This involves listening to often complex submissions from both prosecution and defence and then providing lay magistrates with a definitive interpretation on how they should approach their decision-making. I therefore have considerable experience of listening to competing perspectives, applying and interpreting legislation and caselaw, separating the wheat from the chaff and advising in a way that is clear and understandable for all.

No business or pecuniary interests held



Stefan McElwee (Headteacher)

Originally from North-East Lincolnshire, I settled in Northumberland in 1994 pursuing a career in nature conservation, living and working on the Farne Islands. I have taught Geography in schools since 2000 and have worked in Leadership positions in schools since 2005. I was previously Deputy Headteacher at Ponteland High School and was delighted to be appointed to the position of Headteacher in May 2022. I have a keen interest in educational research and enjoy working with teachers in the classroom to develop their practice through small-scale teacher research projects. I believe the best way to improve schools is from within the organisation, where teachers and leaders collaborate around a core focus of strong relationships and great teaching. I am greatly looking forward to taking the school forward as Headteacher.

No business or pecuniary interests held



Nigel Twelves (Co-opted Governor, Chair of Achievement & Standards)

My name is Dr Nigel Twelves and I am local GP and an 'Old Boy' of Ponteland High School, having been a student from 1978 to 1983. All 3 of my daughters attended the high school and have successfully progressed to University and my son is looking forward to starting year 9 in Autumn 2018.

I have always championed the school and I am proud to be a governor supporting the staff and pupils as to we steer our way through the the next chapter of our story as a Secondary School.

As the Chair of the Achievement and Standards Committee, I believe that every pupil should be able to achieve their academic potential and leave with fond memories of their time at Ponteland High School.

When I'm not doctoring or governing, I enjoy sailing, walking and scuba diving.

No business or pecuniary interests held





Paul Wright (Staff Associate)

I joined Ponteland High School to teach Computer Science in September 2019 after several years teaching in Bedfordshire, Warwickshire. Most recently I was part of the teaching and leadership team responsible for the opening of a brand new Secondary school in South Oxfordshire.

By joining the Governing Body I hope to apply my skills and experience to help positively shape the school community for the future.

No business or pecuniary interests held

	<p>Anna Bunce (Associate)</p> <p>My initial career choice was to be a business woman, but after completing a degree in business and a graduate training scheme in retail, I soon realised there was more to my life than financial targets.</p> <p>This is when I began teaching. I have been teaching maths for over 20 years in Ashington, Bedlington and now Ponteland. I love the fact that each day, as a teacher, I can make an impact on someone's life. My belief that everyone can succeed in maths, motivates me to enable students to understand why things work and see connections between topics, to help them build long term understanding.</p> <p>One day a week I work with the Great North Maths Hub, this involves managing and leading professional development for maths teachers, from Early Years to Post 16, all over the North East. This gives me a depth of experience from working alongside different teachers in a number of different schools.</p> <p>As a governor, I am excited for the opportunity to have a wider impact on our whole community and feel a part of Ponteland High strategic decision making.</p> <p><i>No business or pecuniary interests held</i></p>
--	---

	<p>Helen Steadman</p> <p>I recently joined the Academy Committee in the summer of 2023 as a co-opted governor. I have lived in Ponteland with my family since 2020 and my daughter attended Ponteland High School from 2020 to 2022 and has since gone on to university. After a first career as a teacher of modern foreign languages, which I enjoyed very much, I started work in the NHS eighteen years ago and am proud to now work at The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. As the first member of my family to go to university, and now as a mum of two, I am passionate about education and believe every child should have the opportunity to learn, thrive and succeed in an inclusive environment in which they feel secure and confident. I believe the ethos and culture of a school plays an important part in a child's personal development. I look forward to working with the Committee to support the school and being part of this great community.</p> <p><i>No business or pecuniary interests held</i></p>
--	---

Helen Hartley
Staff Governor



I joined Ponteland High School as an English teacher in 2015, having previously taught and lived in Yorkshire.
Prior to this I also taught abroad for four years.
I teach English and Drama, and am currently a Pastoral Leader.
Outside of school, I serve as a Justice of the Peace in Family Court.

No business or pecuniary interests held

Michael Milner
Parent Governor



I am a Chartered Engineer, Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and Advisor level on the UK Register of Ground Engineering Professionals. My employed experience has primarily been in design consultation and construction of large infrastructure projects. I am currently employed with National Highways within the Engineering Division, responsible for technical assurance, national standards and research.

Being a Tyne Valley child, I appreciate the long history of excellent education and extra-curricular activities at Ponteland, having competed against and performed with the school throughout my own education. In my experience, Ponteland tends to produce excellent rounded individuals who are encouraged to fulfil and exceed their potential, and I look forward to playing an active part in the governance of the school.

No business or pecuniary interests held