



Ripon Grammar School

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION – NOVEMBER 2024

ONE VACANCY

7 x CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS (150 words max)

Mr Kenan Deniz

I currently have children in Years 13 and 7 at RGS. My daughter has passed the test to join RGS in September 2025.

I have worked as a Consultant Neurosurgeon at Leeds General Infirmary [LGI] since 2012 and am Head of Department. My wife is a full-time teacher at a school in North Yorkshire.

I attended a Grammar School very similar in ethos to RGS myself. I am heavily involved with medical education, teaching undergraduate medical students, junior doctors and also neurosurgical trainees. I work closely with Human Resources in order to oversee recruitment in neurosurgery at LGI and I am involved in the national selection process into neurosurgical training.

I would like to be considered for this role as my extensive experience of high-level education and training, and my involvement in recruitment, would allow me to make a valuable contribution to strategic direction.

Mrs Nicola Fox

My daughter has completed 3 years at RGS and is currently in Year 10.

We moved to Ripon 5 years ago, and this was a conscious decision to live close to RGS due to its reputation for excellence.

As a Human Resources professional of 25+ years I have a track record as a trusted partner dedicated to driving positive change and progress with organisations. I am currently a HR leader in a global engineering company and during my career I have worked in various organisations including private, public and social enterprises. I have experience across all people topics including deep knowledge in recruitment and selection, reward and recognition, performance management, change management, leadership development and internal communication.

My HR skills would make a useful contribution to the board. If elected, I am keen to strengthen the link between school workforce initiatives and its strategic vision, including improving staff retention.



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Mr Michael Pointon

Like all parents, I have a strong, vested interest in RGS. My elder daughter, Sophie, undertook her education in the School. My younger daughter, Natasha, is currently in Year 10. We are tremendously grateful for the opportunities made available to our family by RGS.

I am now semi-retired. I spent 16 years in the chemical industry working for an ex-ICI company, in Sales, Marketing and Project Management. For the last 20 years I have worked in teaching Mathematics and Chemistry in a wide variety of schools both in the state and private sectors. In teaching and industry, I have been lucky enough to spend nearly 10 years working in France, Germany and Spain. In both spheres I have been Head of Department.

I feel my career has brought me a wide array of experience and skills transferable to School Governorship. I would certainly bring dynamism and commitment to the role.

Ms Victoria Austin

I trained as an accountant, and later qualified as a planning solicitor, practicing for twenty years at a global law firm working on large infrastructure projects mainly in the public sector. My professional skillset would support the current need for a Parent Governor with “business, property and planning experience”.

I took a break from law last year and currently volunteer on community projects/invigilate exams for local schools and North Yorkshire Council. School governance has interested me for many years but now I have the time to commit to the role and have a vested interest in RGS with a son in Year 8 and a daughter at primary school not too far behind!

I want to contribute to the future development and success of RGS and its strategic direction. I feel I have the necessary skills to build relationships and to support, but also challenge, the school community.

Mr Chris Hughes

Hello, my name is Chris Hughes. I have spent the last 20 years working in established business, start ups and scale ups across banking and financial services, telecoms, grocery and luxury retail and automotive.

My focus over the last few years has been to identify where technology can help to improve the products and services we use in our everyday lives. I would like to use this experience to understand how technology can play a role in education, not only helping the RGS staff to spend more time doing



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what they love, teaching, but preparing our young people for a world where technology will definitely play a significant role in their day to day lives.

I have two children at RGS and would welcome the opportunity to become a governor at their school.

Mr James Robinson

I'm excited to be applying for the role of school governor, motivated by the belief that a good education is one of the most valuable things we can give our children. With years of experience in board-level leadership and sustainability governance, I feel I can bring helpful insights to guide the school's future. I'm especially passionate about supporting student achievement, promoting inclusion and creating a positive, sustainable learning environment.

As a parent of three pupils at Ripon Grammar [two of whom have recently gone on to university] I have a personal stake in the school's success. I understand how important strong governance is in keeping standards high and making sure every student has the best opportunities.

I'd love the chance to contribute to Ripon Grammar's long-term development and am excited about working with the other governors to help the school continue to grow.

Mrs Jayne Dale

As a Chartered Chemical Engineer with 20 years experience and part of the Arcadis' Senior Leadership Team, I am passionate about improving quality of life through sustainable design and engineering. My career has taken me from commissioning oil refineries globally to leading multi-discipline engineering teams and driving strategic business growth.

As a board member of Space NE England, I promote community collaboration for pathways into STEM sectors. I champion Arcadis' "Being, Believing, Belonging" ethos; am an active STEM ambassador, mentor and advocate for diversity through my involvement with Women In Nuclear and Women in Defence. I am committed to ensuring everyone's contributions are valued.

Living with my husband and two sons, I enjoy rugby, the outdoors, learning new things and music. My background as an Old Riponian, coupled with my business experience, creativity, communication skills and commitment to fostering inclusive environments, will add value to help the school be better.