



# **LORD LAWSON OF BEAMISH ACADEMY**

## **Governors Profiles**

**2023-2024**



**Guy Currey:** I joined the Board in 2018 as a parent Trustee. I have worked in local government for nearly 30 years in a range of economic development and regeneration roles, through which I have been reminded of the fundamental role education plays in preparing our young people for the future. I am currently Director of Invest North East England. I currently have one child at the Academy, although my two older children also attended the Academy. I have chaired of the Academy Management Committee and served as vice chair before becoming chair of the Board of Trustees in September 2021.



**Alison Logan:** I joined the governing body in 2010, initially as a parent Trustee. My three children all attended the academy, the youngest having just left in 2022. I have a degree in Education and Mathematics and am a qualified primary school teacher, training as a maths specialist (age range 8-12). I am also Chair of a City of Sunderland primary school where I have been a governor since 2001. I am treasurer of a local branch of a national charity which I set up many years ago with a friend. I am chair of the Student Progress Committee and vice chair of the Board of Trustees.



**Dr Jane Halpin:** Originally from Cumbria, I have lived in the North East since attending medical school at Newcastle University. I have worked as a GP in the local area since 2002. I have two children at the Academy. I have an interest and experience in safeguarding and mental health in respect to both adults and children. I have served as vice chair of the Board of Trustees since September 2021.



**Andrew Fowler:** I joined the Academy as Principal in June 2019. After a music degree at Exeter University, I worked as an accountant for 7 years. After retraining as a teacher of music and mathematics, I taught in Warwickshire, Berkshire and then for 10 years at Wolsingham in County Durham. I was assistant headteacher at a high performing school in Cumbria before becoming headteacher at Dane Court Grammar School, an outstanding 11-18 school in Kent. I worked as Senior School Improvement Adviser in North Tyneside before joining Lord Lawson. I have recently completed a doctorate in educational assessment.



**Andrew Mears:** I was appointed parent governor in December 2021. I have lived in the local community for nearly 20 years and my daughter – Connie - is a student at Lord Lawson. I have spent my entire career based in the north east but supporting customers across the globe with human resources and talent consultancy. In my spare time, I am an avid follower of rugby union, Newcastle United, and I exercise as much as I can.



**Chris Smith:** I joined the Board in 2012 and served as vice chair from 2016-2018 and as chair from 2018-2021. A solicitor y trade, I practised for 10 years in commercial litigation in Newcastle. I am passionate about education and volunteering. Since 2013 I have been teaching law and am currently Head of Law at York St John University. I am studying a doctorate in education at Newcastle University. In addition to me 10 years at Lord Lawson, I currently volunteer as a magistrate having previously spent 6 years as a Special Constable with Northumbria Police. I am also a governor of another large secondary school in York and a primary federation in Ripon, where I live.



**Katie Barron:** I joined the Board in 2021 as a staff Trustee. I have worked as a teacher of English at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy since 2019 when I joined as a newly qualified teacher. I am passionate about making this school the best environment it can be for our students. This role has already given me a huge amount of insight into the work that goes towards creating a safe and welcoming environment for both students and staff.



**Heather McClean:** I am a resident of Birtley and the parent of two children: one attending the Academy in year 10, one at St. Joseph's Junior School. I feel passionately about education and in particular the opportunities it offers to change lives. I have a keen interest in raising aspirations and encouraging children to realise their path is not predetermined and to carve their own future. I am currently a teacher at Carr Hill Primary (a Gateshead feeder school) with 18 years' experience across both primary key stages. Much of this time has been dedicated to seeding life goals and highlighting the role education plays in achieving these. Having helped many children make the transition to Lord Lawson, I now enjoy watching their progress from my position as governor.



**Kevin Thompson:** I have successfully led private and public service operations in the Insurance, Telecommunications, Public, Software and Travel Sectors. With a finance and business education, I have operated at both strategic and tactical levels in fast moving sales and service environments within differing organisational cultures. I describe myself as a supportive leader with excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to build relationships and influence at all levels. I have two daughters at the school.



**Claire Gibson:** I joined the Academy in December 2021 as a parent governor. After completing a BSc Biological Sciences and MSc Environmental Conservation in the early 2000s, I worked for Gateshead Council in Community Based Services and Countryside Teams until 2013 when I left local government to begin my career in further education. From 2014 to 2019, I worked as a lecturer in the land-based teams at both East Durham College and Northumberland College, while completing a PGCE then MA Education. In 2019, I became Quality, Teaching, Learning and Assessment Manager for Education Partnership North East's land-based and SEND provisions, visiting campuses across the region. More recently, I started as Curriculum Manager at Northumberland College, with responsibility for higher education, land-based adult provision and agriculture.



**Donna Bell:** I am a teacher of History, R.E. and Personal Development and I have been at Lord Lawson for over eight years. I began as a HLTA specialising in reading recovery working with the English Department supporting literacy throughout KS3. I have had a number of successful roles in the academy including: Deputy Head of Fleet House working with the pastoral team, I have been a Sixth Form tutor and my current role is leading my Year 10 tutor group through KS4. My other roles have included being the More Able coordinator. This role involved leading the 'Brilliant Club' within the academy an organisation promoting university applications for disadvantaged students. As part of the governing body, I feel passionate about achieving the best outcomes for our students.



**Laura Jobling:** I joined the Board of Governors in March 2023. I studied Psychology at Newcastle University before completing my PGCE at Northumbria University. I then taught Psychology and Sociology for 10 years in the North East, taking up roles such as Head of Social Sciences and Head of Sixth Form. I am passionate that all students, regardless of background, have the right to a quality education to help them fulfil their aspirations. My current role is Student Recruitment and Access Manager at Northumbria University in which I work to improve access to university for all students, through partnerships with schools, colleges and a variety of other institutions.



**Dean Laybourne:** I joined the trust board in October 2023 as a member appointed trustee. I live within the local community with one child who attends the academy. Since 2011, I have worked across a range of schools and academies providing business management support and currently work as Director of Resources at a regional Multi Academy Trust. I have specific knowledge relating to the management of Finance, Estates, Projects, IT, GDPR, Health and Safety and School Business Management. I am a chartered Manager and hold an MBA with distinction in Strategic Leadership.