



The Balcarras Trust

The Balcarras Trust – Register of Members and Trustees

MEMBERS

Christopher Healy BA MEd

Headteacher of Balcarras for 20 years (1996-2016) establishing it as one of the premier comprehensives in England. Chris oversaw Balcarras' conversion from an 11-16 school to an 11-18 school and quickly established the new sixth form as one of the finest in the country. Balcarras grew from 800 students to 1400 under his leadership and also became a technology college (1998), a Training School (2004), an academy (2011), a Teaching School (2012) and a Maths Hub (2014). Chris was a NLE, (National Leader of Education) and a founder member of the Specialist Schools Trust Headteacher advisory group and an original adviser in the RATL (Raising Achievement through Teaching and Learning) project. Before joining Balcarras Chris was Head of John Masefield High School (1991-1996) and Deputy Head of Tewkesbury School (1987-91)

Although Chris is retired he provides consultancy for a number of schools in Gloucestershire and further afield. Chris brings a wealth of experience as a school leader and as an educational consultant

Chris provided critical advice and editing of the bid for the New School for Cheltenham (now The High School Leckhampton) in March 2018, advice on the project and advice on leadership.

Gill Sage

Gill was a parent governor at Balcarras for over six years and during that time she was Vice Chair of the full governing body. Gill worked at GCHQ for many years, using her linguist skills and also worked in HR and administration and management until she retired in 2009.

Gill is a great team member, who is committed to Balcarras and keen to uphold its ethos of high achievement, excellent pastoral care and non-selective admission and so is prepared to devote time to supporting the school in achieving excellent outcomes

Rosalind Shepherd

Rosi was a parent Governor at Balcarras from November 2014 and was the Chair of Governors during some of that time until we became The Balcarras Trust in December 2020. She has thirty years experience in the NHS and social services in a range of clinical and leadership roles. She has experience in governance, patient safety and safeguarding as well as partnership working to deliver, wide scale change.

Barry Stagg

Barry was a parent governor at Balcarras from 2003 until 2014 and was Chair of Governors during some of that time. He was instrumental in seeing Balcarras safely through the transition to academy status in 2011.

His professional career began in the merchant navy as a radio officer (he can still read Morse code!) and he is a Chartered Electrical Engineer – now retired as a procurement manager at GCHQ, where he worked since 1981. He also holds an OU degree (largely in economics) and a MBA, specialising in public sector marketing.

Dame Janet Trotter, DBE, CVO

Dame Janet was the founding Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire. After she retired in 2006 she was appointed as Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, a role she held until 2018. Dame Janet is a long standing friend of Balcarras School and an advocate for comprehensive education.

TRUSTEES

Dominic Burke (CEO)

Dominic has almost twenty years' experience of teaching. He started his career at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham before moving to Balcarras as Head of History in 2007.

In 2009 he took on responsibility for new staff induction and for several years oversaw the entry of some incredibly talented teachers into the profession. He joined the senior management team in 2011 taking on responsibility for teaching and learning and co-ordinating our Teaching School offer.

In 2014 Dominic was appointed as Deputy Head with responsibility for curriculum and timetable. When Chris Healy announced his retirement in January 2016 Dominic applied for the headship and was very proud to be appointed in February that year. He became CEO of The Balcarras Trust in December 2020 and combines this role with the Headship of Balcarras.

Peter Horne CIPFA Affil, MInstF

Peter is the Deputy Chief Executive of the National Star College. He was a Balcarras parent Governor for 6 years and was Chair of Finance Committee. Peter's career includes management roles in companies and national charities, currently as assistant chief executive at National Star Foundation and College. Areas of experience include; general management, finance, funding, fundraising and capital development projects. His voluntary experience includes as a trustee of two youth work charities and other community roles.

Michiel Huysinga

Dutch born Mike has lived in Cheltenham since 2001 but spent most of his life in England. He was a parent governor at Balcarras until we became The Balcarras Trust in December 2020.

Mike has spent the whole of his working life in the pub/brewing industry both in England and abroad, namely Paris and Holland. He and his wife now manage their own hospitality company based in Cheltenham.

Joanna McGuire

Jo became a parent governor in November 2012 and then was an appointed governor until December 2020 when we converted to become The Balcarras Trust.

Jo's professional background is in Human Resources within the private and public sectors, she is currently Resourcing and Recruitment manager with a local NHS Trust.

Julia Poulson

Julia has lived in Cheltenham for 24 years and is a Chartered Surveyor with over 25 years' experience in the commercial property market, particularly corporate real estate, where she has held Property Director roles at two FTSE 250 businesses. She is now self-employed as a Property Consultant, advising clients on property strategy, investment, growth and asset management as well as coaching and mentoring.

A Balcarras parent, Julia was an appointed governor from March 2019 until December 2020 when we converted to become The Balcarras Trust.

Bernard Roberts (Chair)

Bernard and his wife, Vanessa, have lived in Cheltenham for 25 years. Their 3 daughters all attended Balcarras before going on to university.

Bernard, who is retired, worked in secondary education for 36 years initially as a teacher of modern languages in the Bristol area before spending 19 years as Headteacher of Prince Henry's High School in Evesham.

Bernard was a Balcarras appointed governor from March 2018 until we converted to become The Balcarras Trust in December 2020.

Geoff Sparkes OBE

Geoff has had a long (38 years) and illustrious career in the Bank of England, starting in the IT area of the Registrars Department as a Computer Programmer and rising to Head of IT. He achieved that last position just before the Department moved to Gloucester in 1991 and subsequently he undertook a variety of managerial positions within the Registrars Department, including Personnel Manager, before becoming Head of Department in 2001.

When the department closed, Geoff oversaw the process and the movement of government gilts registration work into the private sector. This included considerable close liaison with Directors of Bank and senior staff in HM Treasury.

Barnwood Park in Gloucester also had the benefit of Geoff's presence on their governing body (including as Chair), for 11 years. He was an appointed governor at Balcarras from February 2010 until December 2020.

May 2021