



October 2024

Headteacher - Patrick Earnshaw

Deputy Headteacher - Mathew Downs

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Letter of introduction - Ann Johnson, Chair of Governors

I am honoured and delighted to have been elected as Chair of Governors for Highcliffe School from September 2024 having served for 18 months previously on the Governing Board. I wish to express my gratitude to Simon Welch for his leadership of the Governing Body as Chair over the last 12 months and look forward to picking up where he left off.

I was born and brought up locally and returned 25 years ago to my hometown which is within the Highcliffe School catchment. I am a parent of two grown up children and in my free time I enjoy walking, cycling, sailing and travelling. I have recently retired, which has given me the opportunity and time to volunteer for this role.

I have worked in education all my professional life, having originally trained as a teacher of secondary science (Biology) for children aged 11-18. I have taught at schools and Colleges in London, Staffordshire, North Wales and for the past 25 years in Hampshire. I have had a range of roles, including teacher, Head of Department, Head of Curriculum area, Senior Tutor (responsible for pastoral support of students, and Oxbridge support) and finally Assistant Principal, responsible for Curriculum and teaching staff.

Throughout my career I have endeavoured to ensure the very best education and support for all students, helping them to gain in knowledge and confidence alongside enjoying every lesson. I have always taught in schools and colleges with a comprehensive intake and have a strong understanding of the wide range of needs students may have at this crucial stage of their life. I have also actively supported teachers to develop their own expertise within their own subject and in their teaching skills, to enhance the success of all students.

As Chair of Governors, I hope that my range of experience will help me to support the work of the school across all ages and subjects. I hope that together, we can enable every young person to fully participate in their time at Highcliffe School, be happy and achieve their potential, so that they are well prepared to take the next step into their chosen route of Further/Higher Education, work or an apprenticeship.

I wish Highcliffe School and every student a successful year in 2024-25.

Yours faithfully,

Ann Johnson
Chair of Governors