



Ian Selby

Co-Opted Governor, Co-Chair

Ian has two children at primary school and lives in the local area.

For his day job he works for an insurance company that specialises in supporting small and medium sized companies against non-payment from their customers.

He enjoys working with businesses and using data to support them with effective decision-making.

In his spare time, he is an average but keen runner and is slowly being won over by Leyton Orient FC. He says his favourite subject is, 'easily', Maths.



Ellen Lake

Co-Opted Governor, Co-Chair

Ellen is a Wanstead resident who has two children who attend primary school in Wanstead.

Ellen is a solicitor and has worked at a leading international law firm for 15 years, where she specialises in crisis management, disputes and investigations, and risk and compliance advisory.

Ellen is a member of the Operating Committee of the International Law Book Facility charity, which provides legal texts to not-for-profit organisations in need for legal research resources across the globe. Ellen is a member of the Behaviour and Personal Development (BAPD) Committee of the Governing Body and a Link Governor for Mathematics.



Briony Labram

Co-Opted Governor, Vice-Chair

Briony was a student at Wanstead High School. After completing a PhD in Biology, she joined the Civil Service where she has worked in a variety of roles including as a Senior Policy Advisor for Sir Patrick Vallance at the Government Office for Science.

Briony currently works as a Private Secretary for the National Technology Adviser in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

Briony was motivated to become a governor at Wanstead High School to give back to the school, enable students to reach their full potential and to support the staff in that goal.



Liz Smith

Co-Opted Governor

Liz is Director of Learning and Engagement at the National Portrait Gallery.

She is an experienced Board Member who has worked at Executive level in a number of museums and galleries in London.

Liz is a trained History teacher, who started her career teaching in secondary schools in Bristol and London before moving into the cultural sector.

Throughout her career she has been driven by a passion for widening participation, increasing aspiration and working with teams to enable first-class learning experiences for all.



Emma Hillman

Headteacher

Emma has worked in London schools for over 25 years and is delighted to now be the Head at Wanstead High. This is her second Headship having spent five successful years at Heathcote School.

She has a 13-year-old daughter who really helps shape her philosophy on education. She is a firm believer in inclusive practice and that all pupils feel happy and safe. This, of course, creates the right climate for learning.

She is committed to both the romance and rigour of the school curriculum and providing great extra-curricular opportunities in all areas, ensuring pupils have fond memories of school but also experiences that can help them to develop into curious, resilient, tolerant and successful adults.

Emma is committed to ensuring families have the best local education possible and ensuring that gaps are narrowed for disadvantaged pupils or other key groups, such as SEND pupils, that too often get left behind.

She will work tirelessly with the Governing Body to ensure Wanstead High is the best it can be and recovers fully from the pandemic years. She is very keen to ensure Wanstead High plays a key role in the community and that we also open our doors to welcome parents and local people, whether part of the PTA for example, or as part of our Careers programme.



Anya James

Co-Opted Governor

Anya has worked within Post-16 Education in Havering, Waltham Forest and Hackney as a classroom teacher, departmental leader and senior leader.

Her teaching specialism is Social Sciences; with particular focus on developing best practice within A Level pedagogy and curriculum planning, including the restructuring of vocational courses to ensure inclusion and success for all learners.

Currently, Anya works as the Senior Advisor for Post 16 Education. She leads the provision for Post-16 support and advice, developing, extending and broadening the range of academic, vocational and technical pathways for our young people. She facilitates and coordinates the implementation and exchange of best practice across schools and colleges to ensure that Hackney continues to provide one of the best education offers in London.



Harry Caswell

Parent Governor

Harry is a senior leader of fifteen years experience and a Chartered Manager. He currently is Head of Construction - Cost Management for real estate activities across UBS' EMEA property portfolio.

Harry has also held commercial management roles across the facilities management and construction sectors at Skanska, Amey, Interserve and Vercity managing talented teams of commercial, performance, and finance professionals in support of client's estates, energy and construction project management services. In each of these roles, Harry has been passionate about and proactive in driving Equality, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives.

Harry holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Cranfield University and is a fellow of the Chartered Management Institute.

Outside work, Harry loves road cycling, has watched every episode of Seinfeld numerous times, and enjoys exploring Epping Forest which with his young son.



Andrew Higgins

Co-Opted Governor

Andrew lives locally on the Aldersbrook and both of his children attended Wanstead High School. As an IT Service Management Consultant he has worked for several Local Authorities, The Bank of England, FCA, Network Rail and for Test-and-trace/UKHSA at the height of Covid-19. He plans to use his experience to support the school in, amongst other things, improving use of its IT services to automate processes, reduce workload and improve security. He also has a keen interest in SEND and the progress of the school build. His wife is a knowledgeable lifelong secondary educator and an ex-headteacher.

He works as a volunteer for The Woodland Trust and enjoys being out in the wilds foraging for his dinner. Don't be fooled by his cockney accent; he's a Liverpool fan.



Alison Tobe

Co-Opted Governor



Nichola Baker

Local Authority Governor

Nichola has lived in Wanstead since 2006. Her children attended Wanstead High school until they left the sixth form. Nichola is a retired teacher, having taught in Tower Hamlets for 37 years. She was a History Teacher, a qualified SENCo, and for the last 8 years worked on the Behaviour Team within the local authority. She is passionate about Inclusion and has chosen to be a governor near to home in order to use her skills and knowledge in retirement.

Nichola enjoys the theatre, opera, reading, politics and swimming. She can often be seen in Wanstead walking her Black Labrador Ruby.



Maggie Leggett

Parent Governor

Maggie Leggett is the External Relations Director at Queen Mary University of London, which is our local Russell Group university.

Her portfolio includes all aspects of external activity for the University including student recruitment, widening participation, communications and marketing, and international activity.

She has over 25 years' senior leadership experience, and has held senior roles in universities, other public sector bodies and charitable organisations. Early in her career she worked as a researcher in a university, and also taught for the Open University and in secondary schools in the UK and Spain.

She is passionate about the benefits of education and is involved in all aspects of the educational experience of university students.

She has two children, the oldest of whom is at Wanstead. and in her free time enjoys playing tennis, albeit badly.



Sara O'Donnell

Parent Governor

Sara has two children at Wanstead High School, one in Year 8 and the other in Year 11. She is Head of Arts and Culture at Wandsworth Council, where she leads on ensuring that all residents can participate in creative engagements and related employment opportunities.

She is particularly passionate about ensuring that young people have access, both through formal and informal education routes, to cultural, heritage and creativity opportunities, enabling them to broaden their horizons and aspirations, supporting their health and wellbeing as well as improving their learning, which is in part why she chose Wanstead High School for her kids.

She continues to nurture her love of history (she worked in the museum sector before joining local government), and also enjoys reading and watching sci-fi and fantasy books/films.



Donna Cini

Director of Inclusion

Donna is the Director of Inclusion at Wanstead High School and has been a part of the school community for over 10 years.

Donna oversees the pastoral team who respond to the day-to-day issues affecting our pupils, including their emotional and social needs.

Donna is a founding member of the Young Minds Teacher's Insight Group.
