

Governors



John Searson

My name is John Searson and I have been Vice Chair of Governors since the school opened in 2010. I have worked in education for over 30 years having taught in First, Primary, Junior and Middle schools. I left headship and now work in Local Government. I supported the school's transfer to academy status and have witnessed the enormous improvements that the students and staff have made since then. I am thrilled to be able to continue to support and challenge the MAP schools to reach for the very highest outcomes possible. My role for PCC is as Head of Education and Learning so I bring a citywide perspective to my governorship. As the first graduate in my family I know how important education is to transform lives. I have four children and live on Dartmoor, with my wife Ann, who teaches at the local primary school. I don't get much free time but enjoy the challenges of living in a Victorian house with the never ending maintenance issues to resolve!



Vikki Matthews

My name is Vikki Matthews and it's my great privilege to be the Chair of Governors for the schools and the nursery within Marine Academy Plymouth (MAP). I have served as a governor at MAP for just over 2 years, and I could not be more proud of the Academy and the achievements of our staff and pupils. In my day job I work as the Chief Talent Officer for Plymouth University. I sit on the University's Executive team and I have pan-institutional responsibilities as well as specific responsibilities for the functions of HR, Legal Services, Equality & Diversity and Occupational Health. I am passionate about the importance of education and I believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to learn in an environment that is respectful and stimulating.

When I'm not working I like to read, travel and play tennis. I live in Kingsbridge with my husband, daughter and our 2 cats.



Siân Millard

Hi there, my name's Siân Millard and I'm a Governor at MAP and a member of the Finance Committee. I've been a MAP Governor for a year now and am thoroughly enjoying serving the schools and nursery. MAP is inspirational. Its level of ambition for its students and staff is fantastic and its commitment to fairness and equity is motivational. I am glad to be involved in MAP's continuing development as it improves and strives for the best for local children.

In my work life I'm Head of Strategy and Performance at Plymouth University and I have a keen interest in the way in which good

governance can enable organisations to both fulfil their goals and achieve a great working/learning culture.

I live in Plymouth with my husband and two young daughters, and enjoy spending time with them, DIY, reading, and pretty much any sport to watch or play.



Martin Wright

My name is Martin Wright and I have been a parent governor since 2014. I have 2 sons that attend the academy one in the secondary and one in the primary and both enjoy the school, which for me is the most important factor.

Part of my role as a Parent Governor is to ensure that the school is working with parents and the community, of which it is school is an integral part, to ensure that the needs of our learners are supported and that they are challenged throughout their time at MAP.

I am a teacher at another school in the county which allows me to see different practice and then share the good aspects with my colleagues on the board.

In my spare time I am a film fan watching everything from Aladdin to Zulu, but Harry Potter is my favourite.



Philip Selbie ,Nursery and Primary Committee

I am a lecturer in Early Childhood Studies at Plymouth University and a

qualified Primary Teacher. I joined the Governors in 2010 and taught young children overseas as well as the UK before joining the University to teach students who want to work with young children. I have enjoyed using my experiences of working in different schools to support the growth of the Nursery and I will help to ensure that high quality early learning experiences remain a strong feature of the Primary school as this is a very important time for children's education and MAP's partnership with families in the community. I live in Stonehouse with my wife who is a Primary teacher, and when not at work I enjoy travelling, eating food from different countries, being by the sea and watching football.



David Stedman

I have worked in a variety of Secondary and FE institutions, in several roles, over 30 years. I have worked in Nottinghamshire, Essex, London, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. My most recent roles were as a Principal of a college and a Director of Technology in a large FE college group. In this capacity I set up training businesses in the Marine, Aerospace and Manufacturing sectors, responding to the needs of industry. I have several years' experience of Governance within Personnel, Curriculum and Finance roles. I've run small technology businesses and worked in the Food Processing and Nuclear industries. I'm now self-employed but still involved with part time teaching, small businesses and the Governance of another Academy. I believe that to have a fair and prosperous society it is essential that education provides access for all people, regardless of their backgrounds, to excellent and aspirational education."



Virginia Fisher

Hello my name is Ginny Fisher and I have been a governor and chair of the personnel sub-committee at MAP since 2014. I have been incredibly impressed by both the staff and students of MAP and the plans for the school. The progress so far has been remarkable. In my day job I am an Associate Head for the Plymouth Graduate School of Management with overall responsibility for teaching and learning. I also teach and research in the area of HR management. I believe every child deserves an excellent education which builds their confidence, develops their abilities and encourages them to respect all other people. I live in Plymouth with my partner and two cats. We have four grown up children. When I'm not working I like swimming, reading and watching football.



Chris Clews

My name is Chris Clews and I have been privileged to be the staff representative on the governing body since 2014. I have worked in schools since 1974, for over thirty years as a teacher and for the past nine as the librarian at Marine Academy.

I consider myself passionate about education and genuinely care about improving student's educational attainment and life chances. Being a governor has given me a fantastic opportunity to have an impact on education here at MAP and positively influence student's lives.



Dr Tanya Ovenden-Hope

Hello, my name is Tanya Ovenden-Hope and I have been a Governor for the Marine Academy Plymouth since it opened in 2010. I am Chair of the Curriculum Committee and link Governor for Teaching and Learning. I have been a teacher, teacher educator and senior leader in secondary education, Further Education and Higher Education for just over 25 years. I was Head of School (Secondary and Further Education Studies) with Plymouth University, a MAP sponsor, when I became a Governor and am now Director of Education for The Cornwall College Group., which is also a MAP sponsor. Both institutions are dedicated to improving opportunities for, and raising expectations of, students. I am also a Director of a Multi Academy Trust in Cornwall, an Associate Analyst for the Department for Education, a Visiting Research Fellow with Plymouth University and an Adjunct Professor at Cape Breton University in Canada.

In my spare time I write Education books, reports, papers and blogs. I believe that education should and can transform lives and have spent my career engaged in research to develop, enhance and innovate learning and teaching. One research project I am particularly proud of is the Class of 2010. In 2010 I designed a project to explore MAP's journey as an Academy and have interviewed students, teachers and the Principal once a year since then. The Class of 2010 project will be complete in 2017 when the first ever Year 7 of MAP leave compulsory education. Each year a report on the Class of 2010 has been given to the Governors and the students that have taken part, creating a rich history on the priorities of MAP from both the student and teachers' perspectives.



Karl Sweeney

I'm the Safeguarding Governor, Chair of the Student Welfare committee and one of the Local Authority representatives on the governing body. Before joining the LA I was a secondary teacher and Head Of Social Science working in Hong Kong, London, Australia and finally here in the South West, where I've lived since 1988. I've been involved with MAP from the earliest planning stages in 2008/9 and have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the school become a success story over the years since then. I enjoy seeing the world, playing squash, walking on the coast, flying my hang glider, watching Man Utd, eating good food and living in Plymouth - the best city in the world.



Beth Gompertz

Hello, my name's Beth Gompertz and I have been a Governor at MAP and a member of the Nursery and Primary and the Curriculum Committees for a year now.

It is a great privilege to be part of such a successful Academy and I enjoy finding out what is happening day to day as well as considering questions for the future.

I work at Plymouth University as the Deputy Director of the Plymouth Institute of Education and have a background in teaching and teacher education. I have particular interest in research around children's rights and voice and in science education and learning in the outdoors.

I live between Totnes and Newton Abbot with my partner and two dogs. My children are all grown up but I still manage to see them frequently. I love walking, reading, cooking and gardening but my real passion is my two horses, one of whom is still a foal who I am bringing up.



Danny Damerell

Councillor Damarell is one of our local authority representatives. He lives locally and represents the St Budeaux ward. He has extensive experience of community issues and previously served in the RAF. He is currently employed by a local housing association as a Lawyer specialising in general litigation and housing law. He has a long term association with Marine Academy and in his spare time teaches at one of the schools community martial arts clubs.



Adrian Hollister

“My name is Adrian Hollister and I have been a Governor of MAP since 2013. I am a member of the Finance and Personnel Committees. Along with being a MAP Governor, I am Chair Digital Plymouth and sit on the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Smart Cities. In my professional life I am Head of Strategy and Architecture at the University of Plymouth. I have worked in the IT sector for over 20 years and believe that my experience as a digital innovator and strategist makes me well equipped to support MAP as we move into an increasingly digital environment. I am married with 4 children and live on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall where I strive to lead a sustainable and environmentally aware lifestyle.”