

The Dorcan Academy: Full Governing Board

Member Profiles

Name: Dr Cressida Ryan

Cressida first worked with The Dorcan Academy in 2011, as Schools Liaison and Outreach Officer at the University of Oxford. Cressida was impressed by the school's positive and proactive attitude towards improving educational opportunities and standards and enjoyed working with students in a variety of contexts. Having been a schoolteacher, university outreach officer, and now university lecturer, Cressida has always been interested in supporting education at all levels. Cressida has worked with exam boards, think tanks, charities, and the DfE on various ways to support and improve education, and now use this broad experience-based knowledge to inform my pedagogical leadership and research. Cressida was a co-opted governor at The Dorcan Academy 2012-16, taking the role of SEND link governor, a role she have continued to develop as a SEND specialist at work, and as a governor elsewhere. The role of Member offers an opportunity to help provide strategic oversight at Dorcan, applying my broad experience in education to serving the school in a new way. Cressida has missed working with The Dorcan Academy and would welcome the opportunity to work with the school as it continues to develop.

Name: Revd Trudi Wigley

Trudie is the senior Vicar of a vibrant church in Swindon which has re-kindled its energy and focus under her leadership. Until recently she was Area Dean, with oversight of the clergy and ministry across the town.

Trudie's experience as a Bank Manager with HSBC, Investment Fund Manager and Head of Credit of Prudential with a portfolio of E35bn, provide strategic and financial leadership to the wider Church of England in her Diocesan roles. Here she is a member of the Board of Directors, member of Finance Committee and Chair of the House of Clergy, a senior role akin to a non-executive director, which is part of a team shaping strategic direction of parish ministry, setting the agenda and chairing governing body meetings, representing 200+ clergy and holding national responsibilities of communication, networking and consultation.

Trudie combines these with being Mum to two teenagers and is married to Andrew, a Methodist Minister. Trudie is known for her bubbly personality and for 'getting things done'. Her hobbies have ranged from flying gliders and scuba diving, to playing the piano and walking with family.

Name: Andria Thomas

As a parent of a former student, a former Head of HR at a residential special school and former Governor, I wanted to offer my knowledge and experience to support the board at The Dorcan Academy.

Trustee Profiles

Name: **Robert Linnegar, Chair of Trustees**

Expertise: Former Headteacher

Term of Office: Community Governor: 07 July 2021 – 06 July 2025

Committees: Audit, Finance and Premises, Discipline and Students/Staffing.

Reasons for wanting to be a trustee: I have been a Headteacher of a Good school and Deputy Head of an Outstanding school. My specialty is the curriculum, teaching and learning, assessment, staff training and development and improving student outcomes. I am OFSTED trained and have an excellent understanding of the new framework.

My experience and expertise of running a large, local secondary school as Headteacher and as a School Improvement Partner, gives me the up-to-date skill base and knowledge to successfully lead Dorcan's governing body through the next exciting steps to becoming an outstanding school of first choice for our local community.

Dorcan is more than an OFSTED grade and is about giving our students the best life chances. Our responsibility as governors is to ensure that the curriculum is fit for purpose; that it engages, inspires and challenges students giving them every chance to achieve the 'Greatness' to which they 'Aspire.' We therefore need to ensure that it is appropriately funded and regularly monitored and evaluated. We need to celebrate the successes and challenge the weaknesses. That's the reason it is a pleasure to be a trustee at Dorcan.

Name: **Pat Porter, Vice Chair of Trustees**

Areas of Expertise: Previous Chair of Trustees, Safeguarding Trustee, Foster Parent

Term of Office: Community Trustee: 24 January 2021 - 24 January 2025

Committees: Safeguarding Lead Trustee, Special Educational Needs and Looked After Children Lead Trustee, Chair of Disciplinary Panel, Chair of Data Committee, Audit, Finance and Premises Committee

Reasons for wanting to be a trustee: I believe every student deserves to have the very best education possible, to enable them to achieve their goals. As a trustee my duty is to ensure that the academy is able to fulfil that ambition. I am diligent in all areas that I am asked to oversee, together with challenging processes and data submitted. I perform these duties to the best of my abilities and invest in all training opportunities offered to me in areas where I have the need to learn.

Name: **Ryan Castle**

Areas of Expertise:

Term of Office: Community Trustee: 1 September 2022 – 31 August 2026

Equalities Lead

Name: **Candida Gee**

Areas of Expertise: Former teacher in Swindon

Term of Office: Community Trustee: 5 July 2021- 4 July 2025

Committees: Data Committee, Disciplinary

Reason for becoming a Trustee: I am retired and a resident of Swindon. I am interested in educational matters and feel I now have the time to volunteer as a trustee.

Name: **Sally Ann Harvey**

Areas of Expertise: Previous Chair of Curriculum Committee, People Management, Recruitment, Budget management

Term of Office: Community Trustee: 14 October 2021 – 13 October 2025

Committees: Chair of Staffing Committee

Reason for wanting to be a trustee: I wanted to be a trustee because I wanted to make a difference to originally my children's education. I wanted to ensure that they and other children had all of the opportunities they could have available to them, within a safe and secure environment.

Name: **Tommy Hatto**

Term of Office: Community Trustee: 1 September 2022 – 31 August 2026

Name: **Anne Marie Martin**

Expertise: Assistant Head in a Special School

Term of Office: Community Trustee: 03 July 2019 – 02 July 2023

Committees: Staffing Committee

I was interested in being a trustee having been in Trustee meetings in my own school and understanding how valuable and important scrutiny and challenge is to the proper functioning of a school. I also have a full understanding and experience of Ofsted inspections from the school side.

I started my career in a mainstream secondary school in Reading as a Science Teacher and then went on to join a specialist school for the Deaf in Newbury. Within the school I am the Assistant Principal leading the Sixth Form, Quality Nominee, and Development of the Vocational Curriculum within the school.

I have a full understanding of Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs), the development of School Development plans and Self-evaluation forms and enjoy working closely with the leadership team of Dorcan to continually improve processes, standards and outcomes on the road to outstanding.

Areas of Expertise: Special Educational Needs (SEND), School Development Plans (SDP), Self-Evaluation Forms (SEF), Curriculum development, Quality Assurance and Staffing

Name: **Paul O'Nion**

Expertise: Scientific knowledge to support STEM

Term of Office: Parent Trustee: 20 January 2021 – 19 January 2025

Committees: Data Committee, Lead Trustee for Wellbeing and STEM

Reason for wanting to be a trustee: To be part of the continuing improvement of the school and to help support STEM and well-being activities.

Name: **John Walker**

Areas of Expertise: Financial Management. Qualified accountant

Term of Office: Community Trustee: 17 May 2021 – 16 May 2025

Committee: Chair of Audit, Finance and Premises Committee

Reason for wanting to be a trustee: I am a qualified accountant and previously worked in various senior financial and commercial roles and have extensive accounting knowledge. Currently work for a family group of diverse companies.

Name: **Sherryl Bareham, Headteacher**

Name: **Anne Cleary, Governance Professional**

Link Trustees:

- Pat Porter (Safeguarding)
- Alison Newnham (SEN)
- Anne Marie Martin (Pupil Premium)
- Sally Ann Harvey (SRE)
- Pat Porter (LAC)
- Jason McCarthy (Health and Safety)
- Ryan Castle (Equalities)
- Candida Gee (Most Able)
- Tommy Hatto (Careers)
- Paul O’Nion (Wellbeing Trustee and STEM Trustee)