

Fiona Woodward - Chair

Fiona moved to Cumbria 19 years ago from Lancashire to marry her firefighter husband. She is a dental hygienist and works at various practices around the county. Since moving here, she had been an active member of Harrington Scout group, running a successful Cub Scout pack there and now as Group Scout Leader. She enjoys working with the older explorer scouts doing the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and hopes to extend her experience to help those students at Netherhall undertaking this scheme.

She was a parent governor at Ashfield Junior School for 4 years and took a special interest in safeguarding and anti-bullying. This has continued through the Scout movement. Her son Harry now attends Netherhall and is thriving in this very special school. She is really looking forward to getting stuck into her role as a parent governor at Netherhall and once again taking a special interest in safeguarding.

Steve Newton – Vice Chair

Steve works for the UK Parliament, assigned to the Maryport office of Mark Jenkinson MP. Previously he worked for the past decade in the local public transport industry in which he held a myriad of roles including Legal Compliance and Operations Management. Prior to this he worked in customer service and retail management.

Steve's focus and will to achieve, together with the drive to never give in until he is successful in realising a vision have served him well and he is sure he will make good use of these qualities as a Governor.

In his spare time, Steve is also a Governor at Maryport Church of England Primary School and volunteers as a member of the Maryport ARLFC Youth Rugby committee where he also coaches reception/foundation stage children.

Andrea Best

I have been on the governing body for the school previously and decided that I would like to be part of the school again.

I attended Netherhall school as a student along with the rest of my family including my daughter and son.

I am very much part of the local community through both running my own business some years ago to being HR manager for two local businesses.

My employment background has given me a vast amount of experience from working in finance, the local Job Centre, customer service, training and development through to human resources where I have worked in management for the last 16 years.

In my spare time I like to show my dogs and have shown at Crufts for the last 5 years.

When I have time I also make cakes for family and friends.

Norman Blackburn

Norman lives in Dearham with his wife Margaret. He attended Netherhall School and has lived and worked within the Maryport area ever since.

Norman's own three children all attended Netherhall School.

It gives him great pleasure to serve as a parent governor at his own school.

Mark Nealy

After leaving Netherhall School in 1984, Mark initially served an apprenticeship as a Fitter-Turner, attaining an honours degree in material science a few years later. Since graduation, Mark has held a wide variety of technical and leadership roles within research & development, nuclear decommissioning, project management, system engineering and maintenance. Mark currently holds Fellow status with the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and the Royal Society of Chemistry. He is also a Chartered Project Manager. Externally he is an assessor for Engineering Technician grade (EngTech) applications for

the IMechE, has been an active secondary school STEM ambassador for the last 18 years and is currently in his second year as enterprise advisor and student mentor at Netherhall. Mark has practised karate for 30+ years and was selected for the England team in 1995. Since then he attained senior instructor & examiner qualification and has taught karate to both adults and children locally for the past 22 years.

Sophie Parker

Sophie is proud to teach English to the children of Maryport at Netherhall School. Hailing from Cockermouth, Sophie gained her degree in English Literature at the University of Chester. She then studied to become a teacher in Liverpool, training in schools in Cheshire. Sophie umpires hockey to a high level, and has taken trips to Belgium and Spain to umpire at Junior International tournaments. She continues to umpire in England's National League, whilst also supporting and developing Young Umpires throughout Cumbria and the North.

David Tromans

David trained at Carnegie College in Leeds and began his career at Knottingley High School and Sports College, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, where he was appointed as Director of Sport. In addition to his school responsibilities he worked closely with Wakefield Local Authority to initiate and lead the School Sports Programme and the development of sports facilities through the New Opportunities Fund. Subsequently, he was appointed to the role of Deputy Head Teacher with a remit to improve the standard of Teaching and Learning and to improve school performance, both of which he successfully did. David was appointed as Deputy Headteacher at Ullswater Community College in Penrith in 2010 with the same remit. This too led to transformative improvement in the school's performance as it became one of the leading schools in Cumbria and achieved the first 'Good' judgement from Ofsted in its history. Throughout David's career he has been an advocate of extracurricular activities, taking sports teams, outdoor and adventurous experiences, cultural visits, residential and overseas trips. One of his highlights was an invitation to Buckingham Palace for a Queen's garden party for the 50-year anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. He is married to a Cumbrian and has three children, one of whom was born in the county - his wife will proudly declare that she is a Cumbrian.

Julie Walton

Julie moved to Maryport recently from Carlisle to be near her family, including two young grandsons. She has worked for nearly 30 years as a teacher and pastoral leader at Trinity School in Carlisle. She has been a member of Girlguiding since the age of 7, holding many roles as an adult and currently is the Chief Commissioner for Girlguiding Northwest England and Assistant Rainbow Leader at Dearham. This is her first Governor role and she is very much looking forward to continuing a role in education, working with young people and serving the community of Netherhall and Maryport.

Neil Watt

Working at Netherhall School as a foreign language teacher until my retirement in 2020 was both a joy and a privilege. The students never ceased to amaze me with their talents, abilities, good humour, energy, and enthusiasm. It is an absolute honour to say that many ex-students have chosen to keep in touch with me over the years, and a real pleasure to see them progress in their adult lives as proud parents, performers, teachers, nurses, carers, journalists, and all their many other careers. When serving as the elected staff governor at Netherhall School for six years from 2014 to 2020, I was delighted when Netherhall got its first whole school "good" judgement from

Ofsted in February 2018. For the school to then go on and receive awards for Best Secondary School in 2018, followed by Best Student and Best Teaching Professional in 2019 was truly fantastic.

Now as a co-opted governor, I am proud to once again be able to serve the students of Netherhall School, their families, and the wider community.