

Jan Clarke Chair of Governors

Previously a teacher in West Cumbria for more than 25 years, Jan then worked as Health Education Advisory Teacher/Healthy Schools' Co-ordinator for Cumbria Children's services, a post she held for 14 years. Within the team Jan had responsibility for Sex and Relationships Education, Emotional Health and Well-being and Financial Capability. She was a National Assessor for the PSHE CPD programme from its inception to its demise in 2010 and was the lead in Cumbria for teachers undertaking the programme, well in excess of 100 in all. She also worked on behalf of the PSHE Association as Regional Subject Advisor for Cumbria and the North East.

Jan became a Director of the Be Your Best Foundation, which produces Rock Challenge in the UK, in 2003 having been involved in the event locally since 1997.

She lives in Maryport and volunteers at a local infant school to listen to the children read. She is a proud member of Netherhall Sports Centre where, after a lifetime of trying, she has finally learnt to swim; this led to her helping to establish The Monday Club to encourage older members of the local community to utilise the facilities on offer.

After a lifetime spent in education Jan believes you're never too old to learn!

John Moffat Vice Chair

John is a very experienced school governor having chaired several governing bodies over the last twelve years, most recently at Northside Primary School, Workington. He is also one of 350 National Leaders in Governance (NLG), which enables him to use his skills and experience to enable governing bodies, across both the primary and secondary sectors, to achieve their full potential.

He has worked in engineering at the same company since he left Netherhall School.

John is delighted to be joining our governing body and is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

Neil Watt

Neil is proud to teach French to the children of Maryport at Netherhall School. After gaining his degree in French he lived in Eastern France where he taught English as a foreign language to medical staff from the teaching hospital in Strrasbourg, as well as to members of the European Parliament and Council of Europe.

On his return to the UK he joined South Yorkshire Police where he was trained in major incident control and management amongst other things. He then moved into the private sector as a Senior Regional Manager for an Investment Bank. He also set up his family greetings card business and wrote comedy for the BBC whilst aiming to fulfil his childhood ambition of being a teacher by completing his PGCE and a Masters Degree in Education.

Joanne Carruthers

Joanne was born and raised in Seaton and educated at Newlands Girls School and then Stainburn School leaving in 1987.

After leaving school she worked briefly for a local accounting firm before spending 16 years in the finance department of a local private housebuilder, during which she studied for her AAT qualification.

In 2003 she moved from Crosby to her husband's family dairy farm in Crosscanonby. Joanne left work to have her son and to support the running of the farm where she took over all the administrative duties (along with the odd smelly messy one) and developed part of the property into a holiday letting business.

One of Joanne's greatest passions has always been ballroom dancing, which she has taken part in since she was a child and has competed all over the country. She also qualified as a teacher for both children and adults. Recently Joanne and her husband have taken up dancing again and are thoroughly enjoying it.

Joanne's son currently attends Netherhall School and is having a fantastic time.

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.

Chris Edwards

Chris is a former student of Netherhall School. After attending Netherhall 6th Form, Chris started work with Cumbria County Council. Over the past 18 years Chris has worked across a number of departments such as Finance and ICT. For the past 15 years Chris has worked in the Council's Economic Development Team supporting the delivery of UK and EU grant funding programmes. Chris' background is in project, programme and contract management.

Barbara Irving

Barbara has lived in Maryport for 30 years and has been employed by Netherhall School for the past 14 years.

She is currently the head of year 10, and is also part of the school's pastoral team.

Barbara's son attended Netherhall School before going to Leeds University where he received a degree in Law.

Barbara loves fell walking and spending time around Maryport Harbour area. She also enjoys socialising, mainly going to theatres to see musical shows. Her passion for music originally stems back to her childhood days, where she used to regularly compete in "Robert Burns" competitions.

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.

Kerry Charters

Previously a Parent Governor at Ewanrigg Junior School for four years and more latterly Vice Chair of the Finance & Staffing Committee. Kerry became a Co-opted Governor at Netherhall School in January 2017, following her son's transfer to the school in September 2016.

Kerry works for the Cumberland Building Society who, as a regional company, support their local communities. This could be offering financial assistance or by staff taking their Community Day to volunteer at a local charity/organisation of their choice. Most recently, this meant her putting her limited decorating skills to good use at a local school!

Kerry was formerly a Branch Manager at the Cumberland for 13 years, prior to taking up a new post as Lending Manager within Head Office at Carlisle earlier in the year. She has experience of managing & developing staff and processing mortgage applications.

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.