

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!

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.

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.

Kerry Charters Vice Chair

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.

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.

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.

Steve Newton

Steve has worked in the public transport industry since 2011, holding a myriad of roles including Legal Compliance and Operations Management. The main field of business is home to school transport on behalf of Cumbria County Council and public bus services.

Prior to this he worked in customer service and retail management.

Steve's dogged determination 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 looking forward to making good use of these qualities as a parent governor.

In his spare time, Steve volunteers as a member of the Maryport Youth ARLFC committee where he is also coach for the reception/foundation stage children.

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.

William Pattinson

William was born and raised in Crosby and educated at Netherhall School. After leaving school he served his time in engineering and attained a FELLOWSHIP in Mechanical engineering with the IMechE some 17 years ago.

He worked alongside the IMechE in mentoring young engineers through the training process and into the IMechE and spent several years on the company graduate recruitment programme at Lancaster University, helping recruit new graduates into the company.

Later, Will worked for 10 years as a system engineer dealing directly with front line issues, with considerable time spent off site with key tier one suppliers, looking at technical concerns and proposed modifications.

William has been a keen grassroots football coach with a local club in the town for a number of years and in 2020 took up a position with Carlisle Futsal as an academy coach.

Fiona Woodward

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.

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.