



The Blue Coat School

Board of Trustees

Chair of Trustees – John Grace



John joined the governing body in July of 2019 having spent his formative years, firstly as a Police Officer in Merseyside but since 2003 occupying a range of senior HR positions in different organisations. He recently left Royal Mail, having been a senior professional leading Royal Mail HR operation across the south of England. John has experience of working in Northern Ireland and also in Hungary for a time, but has more recently been able to pass on his knowledge to under and post graduate students at both Liverpool John Moores and Liverpool Universities.

Although having retired from full time work in March 2019, he not only brings years of experience in implementing people strategies in demanding operational settings, but also in developing the strategic approach to the people agenda in support of senior leadership teams. John is a Chartered Fellow of the CIPD and holds a Master's degree in strategic HR.

Vice Chair of Trustees – Siwan Smith



As Knowledge Transfer Manager for Diversity & Inclusion at KTN, Siwan works to ensure diverse innovators have access to the support and funding opportunities they need throughout the UK's innovation eco-system. Leading on KTN's activities for Innovate UK's Women in Innovation and Young Innovators programmes, Siwan has supported thousands of innovators through workshops, webinars and 1:1 support.

A graduate from the University of Chester, Siwan has worked across several technology sector areas and has extensive expertise in marketing, PR and events management. Born and raised in Liverpool, Siwan is a trained facilitator and mentor as part of LMF Networks global mentoring programme. She counts show management for the Liverpool Comedy Festival and volunteering for Manchester Pride amongst her favourite memories. In her spare time Siwan enjoys travelling, going to the theatre and baking.

Patrick Adamson



Patrick is a Deputy Headteacher at a Grammar School in Wirral. He originally studied Maths and Computer Science before working as a Software Engineer on the Seawolf and Rapier anti-aircraft missile systems and on the sonar system for the Trident submarines. He became a Maths teacher in his early thirties and has worked in a variety of schools in the Northwest. He went on to become Head of Maths at Whitby High School in Ellesmere Port, then Assistant Headteacher at Christleton High School in Chester where he led the school's specialism in Maths, Business and Computing. Here, he created amongst other things, an interactive Maths

trail in the grounds of the school, which included a giant Tower of Hanoi puzzle and a walkable recreation of the Konigsberg Bridge problem.

Patrick completed a Master's degree at the University of Liverpool in Educational Leadership and Management before joining his current school. Patrick's passion in education has been to develop schools that inspire and challenge young people to grow and learn in a caring environment, which develops independent learning through a wide range of enriching experiences both in and out of the classroom. As well as Maths Patrick loves climbing Munros and listening to BBC 6 Music, both of which feature regularly in his assemblies.



Ken Graham

Ken joined the Governing Body in December 2019. He is a graduate of the University of Liverpool and holds a PostGraduate Diploma in Librarianship from Liverpool Polytechnic. Retired in 2013 Ken spent the majority of his career working in the public and higher education sectors, initially working for Liverpool City Libraries and moving to what was then Liverpool Polytechnic which was to eventually become the new Liverpool John Moores University.

Ken worked in a variety of roles within the University's Library & Student Support Services Department including, Business Librarian, Learning Resource Centre Manager and finally as Head of Staff Services. In every role the focus was to deliver innovative and high-quality services to staff and students.

As part of the University's outreach programme Ken worked for a number of years with Liverpool Compact Education & Business Partnership regularly going into schools across the City to provide students with practical help and guidance on making job applications and how to handle job interviews. At times challenging work but always interesting, there was a very real sense of satisfaction gained from helping young students to develop these important life-skills and enable them to achieve their full potential.

Ken is currently working with the School's Development Team as a volunteer on the 'Blue Coat for All' project, supervising a small team of volunteers developing the School's archive. He also volunteers as a "befriender" with the local charity Woolton Community Life, which works to combat loneliness in the community. Ken has a daughter who attended The Blue Coat for her Sixth Form studies.

Shirley Heath



Shirley has been employed by The Blue Coat School for 15 years and was elected as staff governor in 2016. Shirley has had considerable experience of school governance, having previously served as parent governor at a local primary school for 11 years.

Shirley is a valuable support to the school's management support service, is a key provider of human resource support to staff and is the school's educational visits co-ordinator. Shirley is a significant contributor to the school's successful Duke of Edinburgh Award, supporting a large number of students each year.

Shirley has gained an excellent knowledge and understanding of the school's systems and procedures and how these are used to enhance the educational experience of students. She brings a valued perspective to the governing body as both a parent of a student and as an employee.

Sam Myers



Sam is an Old Blue, having been a student at The Blue Coat School from 1993-2000.

After achieving his degree in Law and French from the University of Leicester, he went on to pursue a career in financial services.

For the last 14 years, Sam has worked as an Investment Manager for Tilney, working his way up to Director level in 2018. He manages money on behalf of a wide range of private clients and trusts and regularly attends trustee meetings in a professional capacity.

Sam reengaged with The Blue Coat School a few years ago and often supports the school with his time in various capacities such as careers events and prize giving.
