



## **The King's Federation Pen Portraits**

### **Michael John Fox – LA Governor**

I have worked for the whole of my professional life as a teacher in Birmingham and Walsall. I retired, early, as a Walsall primary school Head Teacher in August 2010. Since then I have worked for the National College of School Leadership, been deployed as an Ofsted School Inspector and now run a School Improvement Consultancy on a part time basis.

I believe I have extensive experience in school leadership, improvement and more recently governance. I have been the Chair of Governors of an Outstanding Walsall primary school since 2014 and have chaired an Interim Executive Board at a Walsall Special school since October 2019.

I am committed to using my time and skills to improve the life chances of children.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Fox'.

### **Susan Dell**

I have worked in Walsall for my entire teaching career. I retired early in December 2018 as Head of School in a Federation.

I have continued to be involved in Education and moderation manager for Walsall LA and as an independent Education consultant.

I am vice chair of a school which became a Good School in 2020 and am a member of an Interim Executive Board at a Special School.

I am committed to supporting Schools to be the best they can possibly be.

### **John Baugh**

I have been fortunate enough to work as a musician/music teacher for my entire career.

Having taught for a local authority, I became a director of an independent music support service in 2014 and delight in the challenge of bringing whole class instrumental music to the children of the West Midlands and Staffordshire.

My association with Kings Hill and Salisbury schools goes back to 2006 when I first visited as a music teacher.

I have been a governor in schools since 2015 and have been Vice-Chair on three occasions, as well as being part of an Interim Executive Board.

Whilst not yet fully retired and living in Staffordshire, I am delighted to use my time to improve opportunities for children in the area in which I spent my childhood.

### **Mariam Parekh**

I have worked in education for 24 years, where I have previously held the position of Teacher, Head of Department and Professional Mentor.

I have been a school governor for 6 years, gaining experience governing in a range of settings. I am currently a Chair of governors and a Vice Chair of Governors at other Primary schools in Walsall and Birmingham. I am also a member of Walsall Council Schools Forum.

I have a passion for education and school improvement. Currently, I am Studying for a Masters in Educational Leadership and School Improvement at the University of Birmingham.

I am also a Youth Lead and Community First Aid volunteer with St Johns Ambulance.

When I am not engaged in educational related activities, I enjoy spending time at my allotment.

### **Ben Gibson – Staff Governor**

I am passionate about providing our children, regardless of their starting points, with the best possible education, ensuring that they are adequately challenged and supported to achieve their full potential. I have worked in multiple primary establishments, across several year groups and all key-stages, and currently teach in Year 5.

As a subject and phase lead, I have been able to strategically develop numerous areas of the wider curriculum and most recently mathematics and physical education, allowing me to create and facilitate memorable learning experiences for pupils and positively champion outcomes.

I feel that my role as Staff Governor will enable me the opportunity to work alongside staff, families and our community to ensure our pupils receive an enriching, inspiring and bespoke curriculum. In my spare time, I enjoy participating in endurance events, such as Ironman triathlons, to raise money for charities local to our community including: Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity and St Mary's Hospice.

### **Claire Blanzs - Parent Governor**

I have 2 children at Salisbury in Reception and year 4, the education of the children as a whole at the school is very important to me, I want them to strive and achieve the best that they can be and supporting the school and imputing on the educational decisions so that they can achieve this and also questioning decisions made if I feel they need to be is important. Representing the parents is my priority and would like to do so for both Salisbury and Kings Hill, and look forward to what can be achieved as a federation, I've always given my all in my current role in supporting the school not only as the current parent governor but also as Salisburys head of the PTA and volunteering my time.

My background is finance where I lived in Bahrain for 3 years working for an offshore finance company in which I was also the PA to the CEO of the company and controlled his calendar and deadlines I was then head hunted to Kazakhstan where I then lived for 3 years which also included timescales and deadlines.

### **Rashida Hussain - Parent Governor**

I have worked in local government and in the housing sector for 22 years, spanning across housing, frontline services and more recently in homelessness. As a mother of 3 children I can relate to the struggles and challenges faced by many families and young people in our community. The last data on deprivation for Walsall shows disparities in income, housing opportunity and overall deprivation for our local area. Education and achieving economic prosperity forms a fundamental element of our young people's future and having recently completed by MBA, I fully embrace the ethos that learning and promoting a positive attitude towards learning is key. Having a school which is integrated within communities, is resilient and has the ability to deliver for all is vital to having children that prosper in the future. I have a good level of knowledge around diversity, customer engagement, service improvement and can deliver a proactive parent voice constructively on the issues that face parents so we can collectively work with our school to deliver its overall strategic aim and objectives.

I applied for this position as I feel as parent it's important to engage with those delivering education on a local level and having the experience of working with key stakeholders regionally and locally, I believe I can bring a great level of synergy to the new journey the school is embarking upon. As a parent my promise (if successful) is to help table the issues that matter to our school community and advocate for those areas parents who feel they need more support, bring forward issues in a transparent and diplomatic way. Parents are key stakeholders within schools, and collectively working collaboratively to deliver for our children is crucial. I really want to make a change and help our children excel and achieve their potential. I look forward to your support.

## **Miss Courtney Walker**

### **Teaching**

Taught Year 2 for 1 year at a school in Birmingham

Taught Year 5 for 3 years at a school in Warwickshire

Having worked in a Primary School for 4 years, I know firsthand the daily challenges schools and their community face each day whether it's to do with a budget issue, curriculum, working with parents/external stakeholders, how to get the best out of your class and involvement within the wider school community. I can help King's Hill to make informed decisions about school life by using my experience from when I was teaching and seeing it on the flip side in education recruitment.

### **Education Recruitment**

Flourish Education Recruitment Consultant – Recruitment Consultant - 2 years

Empowering Learning – Principal Recruitment Consultant – June 2025

Having also worked for 2.5 years now as a consultant, I can see the other side of school working with senior leaders closely, looking at budgets and how certain aspects of school life take priority. I have also helped schools to streamline staff with a consultative approach to help with cost savings.

**Overall,** I have been within the Education Sector whether completing my degree, PGCE, teaching or in recruitment for almost 7 years and it is something I am passionate about.

I can bring education expertise with an all-rounded approach to King's Hill's governing body.

I am extremely hard-working and passionate about children's education, and I can work as a team collaboratively, offering ideas as I see fit.

I can attend Meetings on Mondays at 16:30pm and have agreed this with my work to be able to come and do this every term to support the best I can.