

Parent Governor Candidates 2019

Mr Stephen Blackford

Personal Statement

Please accept my apologies that I am not be able to be present for the Parent Governor election. I will be travelling back from the UK on the evening of the election, arriving too late to participate in person. Unfortunately I was not able to rearrange my travel at the short notice given for the election date.

I am a Castletown resident with two sons attending Castle Rushen High School. One has just entered the sixth form having already benefitted enormously from the friendly and supportive culture of learning at the school to bring him successfully through his iGCSE's. The other will be making his iGCSE choices next spring.

I offer myself for election now because I would very much like to contribute to the continued success of Castle Rushen High School. I feel that, at a time when a potential major investment in the infrastructure is on the horizon, my personal skills and experience of thirty years working in construction related disciplines may be of benefit to the school.

As a Senior Leader at Manx National Heritage (MNH) with responsibility for the Properties Division I am very conscious of the importance of effective representation at Client level during major capital investments. Therefore I will bring experience of working with management boards and senior leaders. I am accustomed to revenue and capital budget management within the Isle of Man Government. Using this experience I can contribute strategically and constructively to assist the Board, Headmaster and senior leaders set and achieve strategic priorities and targets for the school and to help the senior leadership team to secure the resources and support the school needs. I do recognise, however, that on occasion it is necessary to provide challenge and I will not hesitate to do so if I believe that it is in the broader interests of the pupils and the school to do so.

I am currently MNH's representative on the Management Board of a British Isles wide organisation (Visitor Safety Group). This group develops proportionate and pragmatic advice/guidance on the management of visitor safety within countryside, urban and historic environments. Furthermore, I am the Chair of the MNH Health & Safety Committee which provides oversight for occupational and visitor health and safety.

I am a strong supporter for the representation of disability and equality needs. Last year, working with a team of colleagues at MNH, I project managed the installation of the first publically accessible Changing Place on the Isle of Man at the Manx Museum.

If elected as Parent Governor I promise that I will represent your children's and their school's interests to the best of my ability.

Thank you to everyone who gives me their vote, and apologies again for not being with you this evening.

Manifesto

My background is in construction and project management and I have worked as part of the Senior Leadership Team for Manx National Heritage (MNH) since 2005 where I lead the Properties Division.

With the prospect of significant investment in new infrastructure for Castle Rushen High School during the lead up to work starting on site I can offer the parents, pupils, staff and governors' the benefit of thirty years' experience working within construction related disciplines. Working within Government I understand how processes and funding work for projects of this nature. I am currently chair of the MNH Health & Safety Committee and I am familiar with disability/equality and safeguarding principles.

If elected as Parent Governor I would undertake to play my part in maintaining the friendly and caring culture of learning which distinguishes the school and I will objectively represent the interests of the children and the school on behalf of all parents to the best of my ability. I will achieve this by working effectively with the other governors to provide strategic scrutiny together with positive advice and support and, where necessary, I will constructively challenge the Board and senior leadership to achieve the best outcomes for the school.

Mr David Goberman

David's background : Merchant Navy deck officer, oil major ship operator, civil servant, mountain biker, runner, Walker, traveller, (in fact anything outdoors) plus various IOM committees promoting the IOM as a great place to live.

With 3 children at CRHS and 1 having just successfully passed through I am able to bring a relevant parental perspective to the strategic decisions the governors make for the continued success of the school.

CRHS is great.

Academically it is really great. However I want to ensure that balanced decisions are made to enable all students to achieve their full potential. These may not be towards the traditional university route that may not suit the many. As a parent and with my experience my perspective is that other routes such as apprenticeships, internships, plain old fashioned work should be equally supported and championed to all students.

When you walk into a shop, drive your car into a garage, fly on a plane, sail on a ship, have somebody sort out your IT issues, I want to know that if the person you are interacting with was from CRHS. You will then know they have been fully equipped for life after school and have been trained to achieve their full potential, no matter what that is, by a fantastic school team who have their students at the heart of what they do.

It is also about creating a safe space where all can thrive which is why a parent perspective of any strategic decision affecting all pupils and staff currently at school as well as those looking to start school I think is so important.

Thank you and I hope you consider me suitable for this role.

Vote Goberman.

Mrs Lorna Gresswell-Wilkins

As a Parent Governor at Castle Rushen High School I would offer commitment, enthusiasm and dedication to make a positive difference at the school – striving for academic excellence and the well being of all pupils – providing the important link for communication between governors, staff, parents and other members of the school community.

As background, I am a qualified senior professional with more than 25 years experience of working for blue-chip corporations and international communications agencies, holding leadership positions in both the pharmaceutical industry and on the consultancy side. I have experience of working with a range of individuals (from CEOs to politicians, clinicians to celebrities and charities), making decisions and providing advice – often in highly sensitive and challenging situations.

I have a wealth of business and life experience to bring to this role and would enjoy working cooperatively with the Castle Rushen High School Governors to support the vision, aims and objectives of the school. As an enthusiastic and collaborative team player with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, I feel confident that I would be a positive addition to the group.

I am married with two daughters at the school and my husband is a former pupil of CRHS. At my daughter's primary school in the UK I held the position of Secretary of the PTA so fully appreciate the importance of confidentiality, impartiality and the time commitment required.

I look forward to meeting you on Wednesday and will be happy answer any questions you may have.

Mrs Angela Katz

My name is Angela Katz I have three children (Summer and Harrison who have now left CRHS) and Jackson who is in year 10. I have always been very happy that my children have been and are going to a school where the school encourages growth and support in a safe and caring community school.

Outside of school I am a school swimming teacher, swimming development officer and teach many different aquatic activities at the Southern Swimming Pool and across the island. I consider myself to be approachable, friendly and have good rapport with students across the key stages and staff.

I have been a parent Governor for the past four years here at Castle Rushen High School - It takes time to get to know your school as a Governor. I have loved getting to know how the school works and how this helps the children of the school. Your role as a Governor is to support the school as a critical friend.

As a parent Governor you are not there to speak and influence decisions to benefit your children you are there to support all children throughout the Key Stages. Castle Rushen is an incredible school that strives to help every child achieve through its core principals - care, opportunity and quality. People can be quick to judge or react to situations that involve their children but I know that the staff at the school really do want the best for all children.

Governors don't just attend meetings! The Governors at Castle Rushen High School are actively encouraged to come into school to make visits to their subject areas. This is a link that plays a really effective part of running the school. This links into the School's Improvement Plan that sets out the changes a school needs to make to improve the level of pupil progress, and shows how these changes will be made.

Governors can ask any questions over new policies or how something is done. You are not there just to agree with the school.

Schools have an increasingly tight budget and sometimes schools don't get what they want or need. The staff at the school sometimes have to do the best that they can to make positive changes that help pupils learning.

Throughout the four years that I have been a Parent Governor if a parent has asked something of me and I did not know the answer I know where to direct the questions. You can't be expected to know everything but you can be there to support and help others who might not feel quite so confident to go into school and ask questions.

No child is the same and every child has different needs. Here at Castle Rushen High School they really do try their best to support every child.

No school is perfect but what I do know is that I am glad my children have attended and attend Castle Rushen High School.