



Honiton Community College

Governor and Staff Ambassador Roles

I have been working as an ICT and Computing teacher since 2010 and started working at Honiton Community College in 2014. I have experienced many changes and challenges in education. The biggest being in 2020 with the effects of COVID 19. I see much reward in working with young people to equip them with the skills needed for their futures. Every day is different and there is never a chance to get bored.

I was born in Devon and have always strived to stay here. However, my drive to become a teacher led me to pastures a bit further afield in 2010-14. This included Castle Cary and Bath.

I became a staff governor on the Teaching and Learning Committee in 2018, now known as the Quality of Education Committee. In October 2020 my role changed from staff governor to staff ambassador. I am looking forward to working with everyone over the next few years, where I am sure we will see many more changes and challenges to help the college achieve 'success for all'

Amy Dytor



I joined the Prison Service over 35 years ago at Winson Green Prison in Birmingham. I moved with my family to Devon in 1990 to take up a management post at HMP Exeter. I then qualified as an accountant and progressed to become the Head of Finance at Exeter Prison in 1995. Since that time I have been both the Head of Finance at HMP Exeter and HMP Channings Wood in Newton Abbot. I was later transferred back to HMP Exeter and promoted to Head of Corporate Services responsible for Finance, Performance, Health & Safety, Works Services/Maintenance, Staff Deployment and Procurement.

In 2013 I became the Finance Business Partner for all three Devon jails including HMP Dartmoor, Exeter and Channings Wood. During my time with the Prison Service I have also had management responsibility for Works Maintenance, Health, Safety and Fire Prevention, Training, Staff Resources, Finance, Audit and Performance. Additionally, I spent two years as the Head of Personal & Training at HMP Exeter.

I retired in February 2016. During the fourteen years I lived in Exeter I served on the board of a registered charity helping to raise funds for the community. My two children attended St Nicholas RC First School in Exeter and then progressed to St Peter's School before going onto Sixth Form College. I moved to Honiton in 2005 and have been an appointed governor since March 2014. I sit on the board for the Resources Committee and am the Link Governor for Finance.

Margaret Evans





I worked in the Banking Industry for several years before achieving a Bachelor of Education (Hons) degree which qualified me as a Junior School teacher. Soon after, I married and had my son. I joined the staff of Honiton Community College over 15 years ago as a Learning Support Assistant and later trained to become a Maths HLTA at which point I became a member of the Mathematics Department. Six years ago, I embarked on a part-time course at Plymouth University which qualified me as a teacher of Mathematics in Secondary Education.

I believe that my experiences both within and outside of education have given me skills and knowledge that enable me to make a valuable contribution to the future development of the college. I am an enthusiastic person and care very much about our college and its students. I relish the opportunity to make a positive difference to the college and its community.

In October 2021 my role changed from staff governor to staff ambassador.

Philippa Gurney

I am a member Appointed Governor, taking up my role in March 2017. I am on the Resources Committee.

I have worked for the Met Office all my working life and have been able to progress to a senior role within the organisation without a degree. In 2003 our family, wife and 3 children relocated to Honiton, along with many other Met Office families.

I have been very fortunate in my various roles in the Met Office to work in several dynamic, varied and interesting roles. I hope that I can transfer the experience and insight I have gained in these roles to the benefit of Honiton Community College.

I believe in ensuring that education meets the needs of all pupils regardless of their individual abilities in any area. Everyone has something important to offer, sometimes we just need to look a little harder to find it.

Mark Gibbs





I joined the Governing body as a Member Appointed Governor in October 2019. I strongly believe in the power of education to unlock opportunities and I was lucky enough to be taught by some exceptional teachers who sparked a passion for learning and a curiosity that continues to drive me to ask more questions! I believe in education as an enabler, and feel that education starts in the home and is then developed and nurtured by teachers and school communities who empower young people to never stop asking "but why?" I believe that all young people should be given the opportunities to meet their full educational potential and be proud of what they achieve.

I have been a professional software developer for 20 years. I started off working on games for the Playstation2 and have since worked for companies such as Volkswagen, Deluxe Media, Pfizer, and Just Eat among many others. I now run my own software consultancy from East Devon coaching clients on effective software delivery practices, product strategy, market disruption, and evidence driven methodologies.

Originally from Cornwall I moved to England at a young age and have spent most of my life in Torbay or East-Devon, settling near Honiton after working in London after graduation.

Chris Meek



I first joined the Honiton College Governor team in 2006 and was very pleased to be involved for nine years. I then resigned in 2016 due to my husband's illness, but was delighted to be invited back in 2017.

I am the Chair of the Resources Committee and on both the Strategic and Marketing Working Groups. I am the Link Governor for Careers, PSHE, and for Associate Staff and Sixth Form.

My background is in a range of businesses including the Merchant Navy, building materials, business consultancy and the Civil Service. I moved to Devon with the Met Office in 2003 and am now retired. My qualifications include a degree in Engineering, a Masters in Business and a postgraduate Diploma in Marketing. I have three grown up children and four grand children – so far.

I have been so impressed by the improvements that have been achieved by Honiton Community College over the last several years and look forward to helping the College achieve further successes for all.

Kate Smith





My career began in banking, where I remained for 15 years, leaving permanently to have my first child. Whilst being a full time mum to 2 girls, I decided to volunteer at their local primary school and was fortunate enough to be asked if I wanted to apply for a position at the school. I have now been a Teaching Assistant at Littletown Primary Academy for the last 10 years.

Working in a school has given me a different perspective of Education and the challenges it presents.

I believe that for a child to be successful in achieving their ambitions, there needs to be a good partnership between the parent/carer and the school and most importantly the child needs to be happy. When a child is happy and in a growth mindset, that's when effective learning takes place.

I am very much looking forward to my role as a Governor at Honiton College. I am the Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee. I am the Chair of Quality of Education. I am on the Curriculum Working Party and also meet with the Vice Principal Quality of Education termly to discuss absence management.

Claire Nuttall



I joined as Parent Governor in April 2019. I have two children, one who has now left Honiton Community College and the other who has just completed their first year. I also attended Honiton Community College many years ago.

During my years of employment, I worked in Governor Services at Devon County Council which gave me an insight into School Governing Bodies and Governors' Training. At present I work at Littletown Primary Academy and have done so for the past 14 years, this has given me a vast knowledge of educational policies and procedures.

I have lived in Honiton, on and off, all my life and therefore have a sound knowledge of the Honiton Community.

I am hoping that by being on the Governing Body at Honiton Community College I will gain more insight into how the College is run and assist in doing so, with the ultimate goal of helping young people in their educational journey through the College. I am the Vice Chair of the Quality of Education Committee and Vice Chair of the Performance and Pay Committee. I am Link Governor for Humanities and Attendance.

Jenny Rawlins





I am a parent governor, currently Vice-Chair of Governors, also sitting on the Resources Committee, and the Pay and Performance Committee, I'm link Governor for CreAte, Humanities and Health & Safety. I have one child at the College and enjoy being involved in making a positive difference to the education of local children and how the College progresses and grows for future generations.

I am a weight loss and life coach, previously employed as a Business Manager in the NHS Mental Health Service and the National Probation Service. I am a qualified Counsellor. Part of a local farming family and actively involved with my community village hall, I love gardening, walking, cooking, and reading in my spare time.

Jackie Rock



I went to Kenya for three and a half years to teach Maths and Science in a Mission School. Returning to the UK in 1990 I spent the next nine years teaching Chemistry and other subjects as Head of Careers and PSHE at a Comprehensive School in Reading. I enjoyed sports, played hockey, and I also did voluntary work.

I moved to Cheltenham in 1999 when I married Ian and taught for the next nineteen years at a school in Gloucester: Chemistry, Maths and Food Science amongst other subjects. I organised the staff Triathlon team and went on several fantastic trips to Disneyland Paris with year nines.

I was now part time as we had 3 children. Ian and I used to cycle on our tandem so we bought a triplet bike and cycled regularly with the children, covering many miles.

In 2018 we decided as a family to move to Devon and the youngest started HCC in year 10.

I have been very happy in my teaching career and fortunate to teach so many amazing and inspiring students over the years. I have loved my job and continue to do supply teaching at 2 schools locally. I also attend Spanish lessons, classes at Honiton LED and am learning to play the piano.

I joined HCC as a Parent Governor in December 2019; am on Quality of Education Committee and am the Link Governor for Modern Foreign Languages. I am excited for the future and look forward to becoming more involved with HCC.

Debbie Stuart





I joined Honiton Community College in September 2009. I love my job and I believe there is no more rewarding a career than one in education. I have been a governor for over 17 years; previously as a governor and then Chair of Governors of a local primary school, the Chair of the Governing Body of the Schools Company South and West Devon Academy and of course, currently, a member of the HCC Governing Body and recently appointed a member for Kingsteignton Primary School.

I have always lived, studied and worked in Devon – after all, it is a wonderful part of the world! My wife, Susan, and I (married 27 years) have two children: Georgia & Jack who we are extremely proud of and love very much. Both achieved first class honours degrees and are still learning.

After work and family commitments I have little time for pastimes but my favourites include: playing racket ball, mountain biking, reading, watching movies, following my local football team (Kingsteignton Athletic) - as well as Liverpool F.C. and travelling (though a Devon lad I am passionate about travelling and experiencing different countries and cultures).

Glenn Smith



On leaving University with a degree in Law I joined industry and eventually became Managing Director of a Utility Company. My family and I moved to Devon in 1999 and although I continued to work as a consultant, I also became the Chair of the Devon and Cornwall Probation Board for six years. Also, in my time in Devon I restored an historic house and farm.

I joined the Governing Body in May 2016 as a Member Appointed Governor. I became Chair of Governors in October 2019. I am currently on the Resources Committee. I am the Link Governor for Mathematics and a Member of the Performance and Pay Committee.

Anthony Smith

