



# Highworth Warneford School

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Dear Parents/Carers

## **WE NEED YOU!**

My name is Jon Williams and I'm the Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees at Warneford, a role that I have taken on from the start of this academic year.

We recently changed the way in which we are structured as a governing body and we thought this would be an excellent time to give parents a bit of an insight into what we get up to, tell you a bit about ourselves and ask for your help to make the Board of Trustees even better.

I want to start by explaining why I am a Trustee. We live in Blunsdon and I have three amazing daughters at Warneford. They are currently in Years 7, 8 and 11 - this year is the only occasion they will be all together at school! My wife (who also went to Warneford) will tell you I'm not blessed with many practical skills but I was hopeful that my background in strategy, planning and finance (I work for an insurance company in Bristol) could help with the strategic and financial management of the school. I've been a Trustee for a few years now and we have seen some significant changes, including the appointment of a new Head, and we've had to make some tough decisions along the way. Teachers have a really hard job to do with very limited resources and I really appreciate the opportunity of being able to support them to do this.

We currently have twelve Trustees – some of whom, like me, are parents of students at the school and others who are part of the wider community, including some staff. Overall, we try to have a balance of individuals that can bring a spread of skills and experiences that we need to ensure we can do our very best as a governing body. More on this in a moment...

So what do we actually do? Well, we meet roughly once per month during term-time as a full Trustee Board and our meetings are organised so we discuss all aspects of the school, such as the curriculum, welfare and safeguarding issues, the school's finances and premises – as well as the strategic direction of the school and its improvement journey. A key part of the role is to be a "critical friend" to the school but also provide genuine challenge to the leadership, to ensure that the school can be the best it can possibly be. A subset of the trustees also meets regularly to discuss the school's finances in more detail. Malcolm (our excellent Chair of Trustees who has a long-standing affiliation with the school) meets with Andy Steele pretty much every other week too. It is a significant commitment but certainly manageable.

I am not ashamed to say that, before I started as a governor, I didn't realise exactly what was involved in running a successful school and it has been fascinating for me to find out how everything fits together and incredibly rewarding to be a part of it.

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So what help do we need?

As I mentioned above, we have recently changed the structure of our meetings and, as part of this, we have looked at the skills that are currently in shorter supply on the Board of Trustees. We would LOVE to hear from you if you have particular expertise in **Accountancy, Fundraising or Marketing**. We are also looking for somebody who has a background, or interest in, the education of students with **Special Educational Needs**. Equally, if you know of anyone who would be interested then please pass this information on to them – they don't need to be a parent, just interested in volunteering some of their time to make a real difference at Warneford. If you don't have any specific experience in those areas but would be interested in getting involved, we would be delighted to hear from you too.

If you, or somebody you know, is interested or you have any questions then please don't hesitate to contact us by email at [trustees@warnefordschool.org](mailto:trustees@warnefordschool.org)

We are really looking forward to working with you.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jon Williams

On behalf of the Board of Trustees