

## **OVERVIEW OF GOVERNORS – 2024/25**

### **Denys Rayner - Chair**

Denys is Chair of Governors. Denys has had a varied career primarily in the banking sector with senior roles working in strategy and change. In recent times Denys has focused on business consultancy working with the NHS nationally on a number of projects, many of which have been developing leadership teams. He is an experienced chair and holds a number of directorships in the not-for-profit sector.

### **Lyndon Brett**

Lyndon is Chair of the Building Projects Committee and a member of Finance, Personnel and General Purposes Committees. Lyndon is a Chartered Surveyor, Licensed Property Valuer and Property Investor and is the proprietor of Lyndon Brett Partnership based in Bridgwater.

### **Adam Collett**

Adam is a Deputy Head for Apprenticeships (Land-based) based at Cannington Campus. He is a member of the Quality and Standards Committee and is a staff Governor.

### **Mark Cox**

Mark joined the Board in 2024, having an extensive background linked to the Land-based sectors. He works for Trouw Nutrition, a major supplier of feed to the agricultural industry, as Ruminant Director Atlantic's. He has extensive experience of the land-based sector, and is also our Climate Action Governor.

### **Sam Harris-Roberts**

Sam is Additional Learning Support Manager based at the Cannington Campus. She is a member of the Quality and Standards Committee and is a staff Governor.

### **Beverley Hawkins**

Beverley is Dean for Taught Students and Professor of Leadership /Organisational Studies at the University of Exeter. Beverley is a member of the HE Senate, Search Committee, and the Quality and Standards Committee.

### **Alan Hunt**

Alan is the Chair of the Quality and Standards Committee. He is also a Link Governor for the Construction, Automotive and Engineering Area Review Group and HE Senate.

Alan has worked extensively in higher education and was Head of Academic Development and Quality at Bournemouth University until 2007. He subsequently worked for the QAA, and as a consultant in Higher Education.

### **John Jenkins**

John is the HE student president and member of the Standards Committee. He is studying a degree in Mechanical Engineering with Nuclear at Cannington Campus.

### **Leanne Mills**

Leanne joins the Board as Safeguarding Governor from the summer term 2024. Leanne is Interim Headteacher at Haygrove School and brings an extensive experience within the field of Safeguarding as well as from the education sector.

### **Claire Pearce**

A member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and Institute of Economic Development, Claire has over 35 years of experience across the public and private sectors including leading the Hinkley Point C planning and implementation process and being the 'architect' behind Bridgwater Vision and the local economic development strategy. Prior to that was head of planning and transport in Somerset County Council. Over the last 5 years Claire has led the transformation of the Gravity enterprise zone as a UK destination for inward investment, as the Director of Planning and Economic Development for the Salamanca Group, This is Gravity Ltd and Wildfox Resorts. Gravity is a centre for clean growth, employment and the talent and

technology of the future which is attracting forward-thinking business to the South West. Claire will act as the link governor on Gravity and workforce development. Claire has a national reputation for Planning Excellence, leading teams, performance improvement and innovation. Recently advising on Sizewell C, she now runs her own consultancy, Real Growth Ltd. Claire has a Masters in Planning and a Diploma in Public Sector administration.

### **Nick Skyrme**

Former Director of Finance and Estates at the College, Nick is a member of the Finance, Personnel and General Purposes Committee and the Quality and Standards Committee.

### **Helen Stapleton**

Helen is the Associate Director of Strategic Workforce Transformation at NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board and leads planning and development of the future workforce for the Somerset health and care system. She has worked in a senior workforce management role in the NHS in Somerset for the last 20 years, and before that was Chief Pharmacist at a hospital in London.

Helen was the catalyst for the Workforce Development Group which over a four-year period successfully supported the achievement of NMC approval for delivering nursing education at UCS.

### **Sarah Shaw**

Sarah is the FE Student Governor for 2024/25. She is studying A Levels, and is in her first year of study with the College.

### **Mike Westlake**

Mike started his professional life as an engineering apprentice in the nuclear industry at Hinkley Point B and doing an apprenticeship at Bridgwater College. Part of this was a unit on CAD. From this point on Mike was hooked on technology in engineering. He went on to represent the UK for Design Engineering at WorldSkills in Japan and was two-time national gold medallist for Design Engineering. After 5 years as a Mechanical Design Engineer, he went on to lead a number of international project teams in the Oil & Gas, Energy and Pharmaceutical industries. Mike now leads a global strategy team for Autodesk's education experiences group. Mike holds several advisory positions for manufacturing and education associations. He previously Chaired the T Levels Engineering & Manufacturing panel for the UK Government. Mike has an honorary professorship from the University of Warwick and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce for services to education.

Mike is passionate about democratising the design and make process allowing anyone to go from thought to fabrication. Mike is a Link Governor on Digital Innovation and for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

### **Jayne Woodland**

Jayne is Head of Maths and ESOL Study Programme at the College and has held a key role in these departments for the past 8 years. Jayne is on the Quality and Standards Committee and is Staff Governor for our Taunton campus.

### **Ros Wyke**

Councillor Ros joined the Board in March 2024. She is District Councillor for Draycott, Rodney Stoke & Westbury sub. She has a background in UK and overseas commercial operational management, a two-term board Chair of Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust, and is a former Leader of Mendip District Council. She has supported and promoted a diverse range of projects from architectural heritage, landscape protection, multi-user paths, to promoting dark skies in her community and saving the village shop with a Community Interest Company (CIC).

*Updated September 2024*