

Shawn Ackerlay

I grew up in Broughton Moor and have lived in Maryport since December 2013. I am married with two children aged 15 and 9.

I attended Keswick School from 1995 – 2002 and then furthered my education at the University of Central Lancashire obtaining a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) degree in Commercial Management & Quantity Surveying.

I have spent most of my working life in the nuclear industry working on sites such as Sellafield, Springfields and LLWR carrying out a variety of commercial and management roles. Since 2012, I have run my own commercial management business offering freelance services to both the nuclear and domestic construction industries.

I am an avid sports fan with a keen interest in boxing and golf and I played professional rugby league for Gateshead from 2002 – 2004. I also represented the Cumbria Schools County Rugby team from U12's to U18's.

It's a pleasure to be a co-opted governor of Netherhall School and I look forward to working with the governing body, the staff, our students and their families.

Mark Bailey

I have worked at Netherhall School for the last 20 years as a teacher of history, head of history, and for the last 5 years, as deputy headteacher. It was a great privilege during this time to have been awarded the title of Best Teaching Professional at the 2019 Golden Apple Awards and to have received a Silver Award in the 2021 Award for the Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School and a place in the national final of the Pearson National Teaching Awards.

It is a great honour to be a member of the school's governing body and I look forward to contributing fully to the continued success of the school.

Norman Blackburn

Norman lives in Dearham with his wife Margaret. He attended Netherhall School and has lived and worked within the Maryport area ever since.

Norman's own three children all attended Netherhall School.

It gives him great pleasure to serve as a parent governor at his own school.

Keith Little

Keith has re-joined the Governing Body after a break of nine years, he was previously Chair of Governors. Whilst Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport with Cumbria County Council, Keith remained very supportive of Netherhall School and provided support and help where possible. As a governor Keith will have an interest in pupil behaviour and attendance issues. Keith is delighted with the progress the school has made and student achievement.

Lee McGarry

I originate from Middleton, Manchester, I moved up to Cumbria when I was in my late teens and have lived in Maryport for the last 12 years. I have 4 children all in education, 2 in secondary, 2 in primary school. Education is a big thing for me, I believe all children should be entitled to the same level of education regardless of SEN needs, backgrounds, ethnicity, poverty etc. I am looking forward to working with Netherhall School, for the best interests of the children, to achieve academic success, mental and emotional wellbeing and I strongly believe Netherhall with its positive learning culture will allow this.

Sophie Parker

Sophie is proud to teach English to the children of Maryport at Netherhall School. Hailing from Cockermouth, Sophie gained her degree in English Literature at the University of Chester. She then studied to become a teacher in Liverpool, training in schools in Cheshire.

Sophie umpires hockey to a high level, and has taken trips to Belgium and Spain to umpire at Junior International tournaments. She continues to umpire in England's National League, whilst also supporting and developing Young Umpires throughout Cumbria and the North.

David Peggs

David is very happy to return to Netherhall School Governors after previously serving from 2014 to 2018.

His previous roles included: link governor to the 6th Form; Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee and a member of the staff interview panel.

Before his retirement David was a Tax and Management Accountant who then went to Warwick University as a mature student to study English and American Literature. He took a PGCE at Wolverhampton Poly and an MA in Film and Comparative Literature at Warwick University before undertaking 25 years teaching in Further and Higher Education. He was actively involved in setting up the Warwick Writing Programme and wrote one of the first undergraduate courses in Screenwriting. David was also Chief Examiner for the SEG GCSE Communications Studies course where he wrote the exam papers and led the team of national examiners to ensure the integrity of standards and good practice. David is married to a Flimby lass and they returned to Cumbria in 2013. He was previously very active in road running and has run the London Marathon three times as well as a number of overseas Marathons including the Boston Marathon. He still runs most days. He is a Carlisle United season ticket holder.

David is very happy to have the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge of young adults and to help ensure they achieve the best they can be. He will do his best to support the local community in any way that he can.

Andrew Speck

Andy is originally from Yorkshire, moving to near Keswick a couple of years ago. He is married with one grown up son. He was a governor of a West Yorkshire school for 10 years prior to relocating. He is a keen runner and cyclist.

Originally a chemist and chemical engineer spending 15 years in various roles in the chemical industry, he is now a director in a professional services firm specialising in mergers and acquisitions.

He hopes to bring his expertise and enthusiasm to the role Governor, helping the school on its upward trajectory.

David Tromans

David trained at Carnegie College in Leeds and began his career at Knottingley High School and Sports College, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, where he was appointed as Director of Sport. In addition to his school responsibilities he worked closely with Wakefield Local Authority to initiate and lead the School Sports Programme and the development of sports facilities through the New Opportunities Fund. Subsequently, he was appointed to the role of Deputy Head Teacher with a remit to improve the standard of Teaching and Learning and to improve school performance, both of which he successfully did.

David was appointed as Deputy Headteacher at Ullswater Community College in Penrith in 2010 with the same remit. This too led to transformative improvement in the school's performance as it became one of the leading schools in Cumbria and achieved the first 'Good' judgement from Ofsted in its history.

Throughout David's career he has been an advocate of extracurricular activities, taking sports teams, outdoor and adventurous experiences, cultural visits, residential and overseas trips. One of his highlights was an invitation to Buckingham Palace for a Queen's garden party for the 50-year anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

He is married to a Cumbrian and has three children, one of whom was born in the county - his wife will proudly declare that she is a Cumbrian.

Julie Walton

Julie moved to Maryport recently from Carlisle to be near her family, including two young grandsons. She has worked for nearly 30 years as a teacher and pastoral leader at Trinity School in Carlisle. She has been a member of Girlguiding since the age of 7, holding many roles as an adult and currently is the Chief Commissioner for Girlguiding Northwest England and Assistant Rainbow Leader at Dearham.

This is her first Governor role and she is very much looking forward to continuing a role in education, working with young people and serving the community of Netherhall and Maryport.

Neil Watt

Working at Netherhall School as a foreign language teacher until my retirement in 2020 was both a joy and a privilege. The students never ceased to amaze me with their talents, abilities, good humour, energy, and enthusiasm. It is an absolute honour to say that many ex-students have chosen to keep in touch with me over the years, and a real pleasure to see them progress in their adult lives as proud parents, performers, teachers, nurses, carers, journalists, and all their many other careers.

When serving as the elected staff governor at Netherhall School for six years from 2014 to 2020, I was delighted when Netherhall got its first whole school "good" judgement from Ofsted in February 2018. For the school to then go on and receive awards for Best Secondary School in 2018, followed by Best Student and Best Teaching Professional in 2019 was truly fantastic.

Now as a co-opted governor, I am proud to once again be able to serve the students of Netherhall School, their families, and the wider community.