Parent Governor election – supporting statements

**ROOPINDER BRAR**

Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

**I am writing to express my strong interest in joining the governing body at Reading School. As a medical doctor, NHS GP Partner, and medicolegal adviser, I bring extensive experience in strategic leadership, regulatory compliance, risk management, and safeguarding. I am eager to apply these skills to support the school's continued excellence and the well-being of its pupils.**

Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

**My work as a medicolegal adviser has honed my ability to analyse complex policies, assess risk objectively, and make balanced, defensible decisions under pressure. Understanding the statutory duties that govern public institutions is central to my daily work, and I would bring a calm, analytical, and thorough approach to board discussions and committee responsibilities. Beyond my clinical and legal work, I am deeply committed to the welfare and holistic development of young people. As the Safeguarding and Well-being Officer for my local Shotokan karate club, volunteered for 20 years as a Samaritans listener, I have direct, practical experience in child protection, pastoral support, and fostering a safe, disciplined, and inclusive environment. I understand the importance of resilience, physical health, and mental well-being in helping young people thrive both inside and outside the classroom. Reading School has a remarkable tradition of academic achievement and character development. I would be honoured to contribute my time, professional expertise, and dedication to safeguarding and high standards to help ensure every student has the best possible environment in which to succeed. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my background can support the governing body.**

**MICHAEL REED**

Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor :

**My eldest son has started Reading School in Year 7 this year, so I am at the beginning of a long commitment to the school. I know that boys face many challenges growing up in the modern world and I have been deeply impressed by what I have seen, read and experienced of Reading School so far. More than ever I believe boys need good role models and I'd like to do my part to support the efforts of Reading School in producing the leaders, thinkers and fathers of the future.**

Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

**I've lived in Reading since 2005 and have 3 children who all attend schools in Berkshire. I have 20 years of experience in the Civil Service, working for the Department of Environment and HMRC. I'm a senior leader in a team of 300, leading teams to design communications and guidance materials used by millions of UK taxpayers. My background is in communications and I have worked on several high-profile national campaigns, including the Grenfell Tower response, EU Common Agricultural Policy, Brexit and Making Tax Digital. I'm a very keen musician (I've taught all of my children to play the piano), and spend my spare time running and reading.**

**CLAIRE HEFFERNAN**

Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

**As a parent, I have a strong interest in Reading School and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to its continued success and development. Although my son has just started in Year 7, I am impressed by the strong sense of community among staff and students, as well as the breadth of opportunities available to pupils, both academically and beyond the classroom. Having spent much of my career in higher education, I have a strong understanding of what makes educational institutions successful, from leadership and governance to pedagogy and practice. I hope to bring this experience to the Governing Body, while listening to the views of other parents and working with fellow governors and school leadership to make a positive contribution to the school's future.**

Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

**I hold a professorial chair at the Royal Veterinary College and lead Action to End Stunting, a global initiative focused on child nutrition and development. Previously, I was Director of an interdisciplinary centre involving seven University of London partner institutions. I have considerable experience in institutional leadership, governance, policy development and financial management through my work in higher education and global development research. My roles have involved strategic planning, managing budgets and staff, safeguarding, risk management and working with a wide range of institutional and external partners. I have served on the Audit and Risk and Monitoring and Evaluation Committees of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, as well as a wide range of assessment panels for UKRI, UN agencies, the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Wellcome Trust. These roles have involved reviewing policies and performance, assessing evidence, considering financial and operational risks, and contributing to collective decision-making. I also have extensive experience in teaching, curriculum development, postgraduate supervision and public engagement.**