

**PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION**

**NOVEMBER 2020**

**CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

## **NIGEL ANDERSON**

Please state why you wish to be a governor:

**I have had the privilege of serving my country as a member of the British Army since 1995. Still serving, I am honoured to have risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and have a wealth of expertise of leadership and management of both large and small teams. I wish to use my experience and knowledge of leadership, decision making, change management and logistics to serve the Reading School community and the school's wider interests.**

**The reason why I wish to do this? I believe that the values that I hold as a serving army officer are aligned with the Reading School values and believe that it is time that I gave back to my local community. I wish to use the skills and expertise the army has inculcated in me as positive influences for good.**

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

**I have an extensive background in military leadership & management practice from over twenty years experience as an Army Officer. My military experience garnered from high profile policy posts and operational deployments worldwide have given me a strong background in decision making, strategic analysis and planning. As a parent Governor of Reading School I would seek to use all of my military skills and expertise for the good and benefit of the School and the wider community.**

**Having recently completed my MBA and shortly to start another Masters degree, I strongly believe in lifelong learning and in passing on best practice and knowledge to others. To achieve this I would seek to bring the learning from my MBA to bear along with my military perspective with the aim of helping other Governors and the wider team to achieve their aims and strategic goals.**

**I believe that the values and standards expected of an Army Officer are directly compatible with the Reading Way. I humbly wish to pass on my experience of living with the practicalities of these values and standards in difficult circumstances whilst upholding them through personal example.**

## **PADDY BULLARD**

Please state why you wish to be a governor:

**Reading School is impressive in so many ways, but what strikes parents of recently-arrived boys most forcibly is the strength and clarity of the school's ethos – its strong focus on leadership, integrity and community, as well as on academic excellence. The school's A-Level results are astonishing, but the Floreat leadership programme, sports provision, and wonderful House system are even more inspiring.**

**I want to become a governor of Reading School so that I can help to support and safeguard the structures, strategies and people who have put these values to work for Reading's boys. At a personal level, I relish the camaraderie of voluntary and committee work, and I am eager to involve myself more closely with the school community. As an Higher Education professional, the knowledge and insight that a governor's work would give me into current secondary-level educational policy and strategy would be especially valuable as I move away from face-to-face teaching in my day job into university leadership roles. I would expect to acquire new skills, and to benefit from the training offered to new governors.**

**As a parent, I am eager to make a hands-on contribution to maintaining the school's excellent standards by taking an active part in its processes of strategic planning, compliance and accountability. Having enjoyed so many benefits from the school in just fourteen months as a parent (and at such a difficult time), I really hope that I can have this opportunity to put at least something back.**

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

**The skills I offer the governing board have been acquired during twenty years of full-time work in higher education as a university lecturer, researcher and manager. I have taught at the universities of Oxford (2001-2010), Kent (2010-2015) and Reading (2015-) where I am currently Associate Professor of English Literature. Since 2018 I have been Director of Teaching and Learning for my department. This leadership role has given me experience of what school governors say is crucial to their work: detailed attention to compliancy procedures, rigorous management of accountability processes (especially around analysis of performance data), but also broad-picture strategy for educational policy. My long association with Oxford University – and particularly my experience as a lecturer and college interviewer for UG applicants – could be of more immediate service to the school.**

**The personal quality that I think would be most valuable of all to the governing board is also the most difficult to evidence today. While managing the teaching in my department I have found my inter-personal skills especially valuable: I have learned to strike the right balance between patient supportiveness in my dealings with students and colleagues, and a constant regard for equity within the community. One cannot wink at poor performance without being unfair to those who contribute most to an organization. One last thing: I have a strong interest in community, both within the school and in its relations to the town. In my university life the best evidence for this is the work I do with the Museum of English Rural Life (Reading School's architectural sister on Redlands Road) as a Senate-elected member of its management board, and as the leader of many outreach projects.**

**MARTIN HALEY**

Please state why you wish to be a governor:

**My younger son is in the Lower VI at Reading School, my older son left the school last summer and is now at university.**

**For the last five years I have been chair of the school's Boarding Parents Association. During this time, I have worked closely with the Boarding Housemasters and the Headmaster in his capacity as head of boarding.**

**In that role I believe I have demonstrated pragmatic leadership and that I am balanced, fair and not frightened to hold individuals to account, whether parents or senior individuals from within the school structure!**

**Having recently stood down from that role, I am looking for further ways to serve the school and help achieve its objectives.**

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

**I am the CEO of a Medical Education company which trains around half of the UK's GP workforce. The skills I draw upon for that role are to help set vision and strategy and then work with teams to make the necessary changes to deliver strategic change. For example, following the COVID pandemic, the company has changed from a face to face course provider to a digital one, whilst maintaining market position.**

**Many organisations fail to implement strategy successfully. The leadership of Reading School has a good track record of managing such change and I believe I can further add to that.**

**I am also a charity trustee and have a firm grasp of operating within organisations where budgets are important, but where the primary objective is not a financial one.**

**Finally, I have a sense of humour and believe passionately that appropriate humour has an important role in leadership, management and education.**

**OLIVER PILKINGTON**

Please state why you wish to be a governor:

**I have two boys at the school (in years 8 and 9 and both in boarding) and I care deeply about the school, what it is able to offer its students and the outcomes it achieves for them.**

**I would like to have the opportunity to provide a positive contribution to the running of the school and generally to do whatever I can to help improve the already excellent school for the benefit of students, staff and other stakeholders.**

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

**I am a partner at a national law firm with offices across the South East of England. I have been based in the firm's Reading office for the last 5 years where I head up the corporate team (specialising in public and private fundraisings, mergers and acquisitions and other corporate transactions and corporate governance).**

**I am well connected in the business community, both locally and further afield. I am used to working collaboratively in a team and finding creative solutions to complex problems.**

## **KRISH SEAL**

Please state why you wish to be a governor:

**First, a little bit about myself: I am 50 years old, London born of Indian parents, 21 years married with 2 sons, one of whom attends Reading in Year 10, have a BSc in Management, and my 25+ year career has guided me to the management board of a global chemicals company as Vice President of Commercial.**

**I firmly believe in our schools ethos of 'raising good men' delivered by educational excellence and character building activities which promote the values of integrity, respect and community within a challenging, nurturing and safe environment.**

**We are all going through a difficult time, and my key motivation to offer myself as a parent governor, is to ensure that we continue to deliver against the principles I have described. I believe in accountability, shared responsibility and working together to ensure that our boys meet and more often than not, exceed their potential academically, physically, artistically and socially. Most recently I have engaged with the school around the current timetable, and though I appreciate the restrictions COVID has imposed, I wish to find ways to improve.**

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

**I myself attended a grammar school in my youth, have been chair of our local pre-school, and have played an active role in my sons infant school at all fund raising events over a 7 year period.**

**In my current profession, I work in diverse markets that include Healthcare, Defence, Industrial, Mining and Green Energy across more than 50 countries. Projects are complex, contracts are even more complicated. This requires expertise, commercial savvy, an ability to work across multiple functions, levels and personalities, attention to detail, but most of all its about taking a strategy or plan all the way through to execution, measuring effectiveness and having the courage & flexibility to adapt as & when required.**

**My approach is always to first listen, understand and learn, define a plan and common goals, build strong collaborations, be pragmatic but challenging, so as to ultimately ensure progress and achievement. My experience lends itself to fund raising and procurement, I am able to engage with key partners such as local organisations and businesses, and I believe I can contribute to the more complex area of educational policy, which especially at a time like now needs to be constantly reviewed, adapted and quickly implemented to ensure we continue to deliver the very best for our boys.**

**SANJAY SHAHI**

Please state why you wish to be a governor:

**I feel passionate about secondary school education which is the foundation to later academic achievements and the development of social and professional life skills. Just like every other parent, I want the very best for my son who started in year 7 from September 2019 as a boarding pupil.**

**Any decisions taken by the Governing Body will affect our child's future education. As a critical friend of the school, I will engage the School Leadership Team and the Governing Body with constructive discussions to help Reading School maintain its highest standards and meet future challenges. I believe that parent governor has a special role, and I will try to assess issues and discussions from the point of view of parents/carers and families.**

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

**I can support Reading School to maintain its high standards and ethos of providing excellent education and leadership qualities to the boys. My prior experience of being a school governor and committee chair for 3 years (2016-2019) will be beneficial to the Reading School's Governing Body.**

**As a healthcare professional with over 20 years of rich and diverse international experience, I have helped organisations to achieve growth through strategic initiatives, products, and technology commercialisation. I am fortunate to have lived and worked in India, Germany, Ireland, and the U.K. which helped me to embrace diversity.**

**Reading School's student population is ethnically diverse with 59% of students are from ethnic minorities. However, the Governing Body is not diverse. If elected, I will also bring diversity and therefore a better represented Governing Body.**