

Welcome letter from the Chair of Trustees...



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to introduce myself as the Chair of Trustees at St Margaret's Academy and, on behalf of all the trustees, want to extend to you a warm welcome to the school.

I am also a parent at the school with a son in Year 2 and a daughter who had her final year here last year. I joined the governing board in November 2018 and was delighted to be appointed as Chair in April 2020.

All the school trustees are volunteers and we come from a variety of backgrounds including education, social care, finance, law and construction. We are all motivated to help the school continue to be a successful and happy place for our children to learn and develop. I feel that this varied range of skill sets and shared vision is our main strength.

What do the trustees do?

There are three core functions of the board:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the head teacher and other senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the finances and making sure that money is well spent.

How we do this...

The Full Trustee Board meets every term to review progress against the three core functions above and then also as two sub committees to scrutinise Educational Standards, and Finance and Audit.

As trustees we also have specific roles and areas of interest. Throughout the year we will visit the school to review and challenge progress. This can be through learning walks where we observe lessons, looking through books, meeting with subject leads and talking to the children.

I also work closely with Mr Hughes and Mrs Pike, supporting them with the continued progress and development of the school.

A key part of allowing us to be effective as trustees is knowing what issues are important to you, so if you have any suggestions or questions, please do not hesitate to let us know. There is more information on the school website about our governance:

[St Margaret's Academy - Governance \(stmargaretstorbay.org.uk\)](http://stmargaretstorbay.org.uk)

If you are interested in knowing more about our work, or even joining the trustees, I would be very happy to have a conversation with you.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the start of the academic year and hope you and your families have a lovely summer.

James Bennett, Chair of Trustees