

26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**KENSINGTON ALDRIDGE ACADEMY**  
**ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNOR**

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to advise you that there were more nominations than vacancies for the recently advertised post of Parent Governor and therefore a ballot will take place. Applications have been received from eight parents:

- Mai Almasri, whose daughter is in 8 GAUSS
- Fiona Austin, whose son is in 11 FARAH and daughter is in 12 FRY
- Cezary Bednarski, whose son is in 9 PINTER
- Lorraine Gray, whose grandson is in 10 JONES
- Chloe Livingston, whose son is in 7 ALMODOVAR
- Simon Newman, whose daughter is in 8 HONEYBALL I
- Simone Nyack, whose daughter is in 8 ANGELOU2
- Brad Rosser, whose son is in 7 SLIMANI

This means we must now hold a ballot. Due to the social distancing measures in place due to Covid-19, we will be using online voting software. Each parent will receive an email from Choice Voting. This will give you a unique voting link through which to place your vote. Each parent / carer can submit **one** ballot paper, regardless of the number of pupils you have attending the academy.

The personal statements for each candidate are overleaf, and also held in the voting system. We gave candidates the opportunity to record a video introducing themselves to you as they cannot do this in person at present – these are also included alongside the candidate statements for those who opted to record one.

If for any reason you would wish to place your ballot through a hard copy form, please contact Anna Machin ([a.machin@kaa.org.uk](mailto:a.machin@kaa.org.uk)) and this will be sent to you by post. Any hard copy ballot forms should be marked with an 'X' alongside the name of the parent / carer you support. Once you have marked the ballot paper you should seal it in the envelope provided and post to: Anna Machin, Kensington Aldridge Academy, 1 Silchester Road, London W10 6EX.

The deadline for placing votes is **12pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

The election will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast. In the event of a tie, lots will be drawn. When the election has been completed I will let you know the outcome. If in the meantime you have any queries, please contact me via the Clerk to the Board Anna Machin ([a.machin@kaa.org.uk](mailto:a.machin@kaa.org.uk)) who is the Returning Officer for this parent governor election.

Yours sincerely,



**Mick May OBE, Chair of Governors**

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## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

### Mai Almsari

#### **I am interested in becoming a parent governor at KAA because:**

I am a parent to three children – one in year 8, and two who will be joining KAA in September 2021 and September 2024 respectively.

I am interested in becoming a parent governor because I believe that the role provides a strong link between the school and community, ensuring that students and families are well represented within the education system.

As a member of the community, parent and teacher, I believe that I can provide this link effectively, bringing to the role a wide perspective, first-hand experience and transferable skills.

#### **I would offer the following skills and experience to the role of parent governor:**

As a SEN teacher, I have a good understanding of educational policies, curriculum, inclusion, safeguarding, as well as teaching and learning. I can offer an insight and a connection between the school and families from both a professional and familial viewpoint.

#### **If elected I would seek to help with:**

If elected, I would work with the Board of Governors in developing the aims, strategies and visions for the school, taking into account the whole school community and making a positive contribution towards the ethos and drive for continuous improvement at KAA.

### Fiona Austin

#### **I am interested in becoming a parent governor at KAA because:**

I want to support and reflect the change that the world is experiencing and with it our needs, priorities and values. It's important to keep with the times so that our children can go into life with confidence and balance - to be successful in their purpose and contribution. To feel good about themselves.

#### **I would offer the following skills and experience to the role of parent governor:**

As a positive psychologist I'd like to offer balance and perspective on decisions so our children can feel and be included in what is their world.

I have also in the past had a foreign language school so understand the challenges and translation needed to bridge the demands of parents to school.

#### **If elected I would seek to help with:**

Support our children's needs and make sure that they are included not left behind.

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### **Cezary Bednarski**

**Candidate video:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t2sccO-AexA9MNUtUI7axfxOtcAMZvvp/view?usp=sharing>

#### **I am interested in becoming a parent governor at KAA because:**

- My younger son attends KAA (year 9), my elder son also attended KAA
- I am actively involved in W10/W11 local community issues
- Educated on the continent and have a number of misgivings about how the UK education is structured
- I was the deputy chairman of the Polish Saturday School at the London Oratory School
- In 1994 I co-founded Studio E Architects who designed the KAA building (I sold the practice to my then partners in 2001)
- The Grenfell Tower calamity places unusual burdens on KAA, handling of which I believe I can help with

#### **I would offer the following skills and experience to the role of parent governor:**

- Education of all levels, including that of a visiting professor at university level (embarking on my PhD at UCL)
- 41 years of creative brain storming experience, and critical and questioning participation in scientific committees
- Intimate knowledge of the construction industry and functional/ health aspects of buildings
- Creative skills and problem solving put to community use, also in Africa

#### **If elected I would seek to help with:**

- Future proofing education, core and enrichment offered by KAA
- Addressing how technology is transforming the learning environment
- Analysing correlation between good design and child development
- Reviewing how new teaching methodologies change the classroom
- Pondering over what makes a successful school building, and why
- Fundraising in the field of design

### **Lorraine Gray**

#### **I am interested in becoming a parent governor at KAA because:**

I would be honored to contribute in some way to make a positive impact in our children's school life by taking this opportunity to apply for a position as Parent Governor. I am the Grand Parent and Guardian of a pupil in year 10. I have worked for many years locally as a Youth and Community worker prior to becoming a Carer to a family members. To be able to encourage and support parents and staff to continue successfully building the KAA school community and giving our children the best education possible is something I would definitely like to give some time to given the opportunity.

#### **I would offer the following skills and experience to the role of parent governor:**

I have past experience years ago of being a co-opted vice chair on the governing body of a primary school as well as my role within the community as a Youth Worker gaining people, communication and IT skills. I also have the experience of working around formal and informal education settings for many years.

#### **If elected I would seek to help with:**

As a parent governor, have the chance to help to develop Kensington Aldridge Academy further with enthusiasm and commitment, and learn new skills to support the role. Be a link between governors and parents and enjoy supporting and developing the learning environment for students and individuals.

### Chloe Livingston

#### **I am interested in becoming a parent governor at KAA because:**

I am passionate that our children receive the best education and want to support the school to be the best it can be. I wholeheartedly believe that I can confidently represent the views of the wider parent community of the school and am definitely not afraid to challenge constructively. My son is in Year 7 so I am personally invested in the school's success for a number of years to come.

#### **I would offer the following skills and experience to the role of parent governor:**

I am a senior Business Manager for a bank where I currently relationship manage a number of schools. I understand some of the more administrative issues that compliance with statutory requirements raise and am able to draw on the successes of my own clients. I hold a first class law degree and have completed the Legal Practice Course – keeping close to statutory regulations and understanding budgets/financial statements is part of my day to day fabric. I am incredibly personable and have great listening skills. My employer has a strong citizenship agenda and are fully onboard with the time commitment such a role would demand.

#### **If elected I would seek to help with:**

Understand, develop and support the school's long term and key objectives and offer my expertise in finance and business management.

### Simon Newman

**Candidate video:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XXICFBnZsZIPjUX6aHxy-V2mE62wfhfj/view?usp=sharing>

#### **I am interested in becoming a parent governor at KAA because:**

I have lived in Shepherds Bush for over 20 years and feel passionately that neither wealth nor religion should deny children the best possible education.

#### **I would offer the following skills and experience to the role of parent governor:**

As a primary school Governor, I have learnt to not just listen to the loudest voices but act on behalf of the whole school community to ensure the best outcomes for all of the children.

I have always been interested in the local schooling provision, meeting with local secondary Heads, reassuring parents about secondary choices and working to improve access to state secondaries.

I have significant experience in listening to and acting upon peoples diverse and often contradictory opinions. As Director of Research at Target Ovarian Cancer, I ensured women living with ovarian cancer informed all aspects of the research programme and that their voices made a real difference.

#### **If elected I would seek to help with:**

Work tirelessly to ensure the school continues to serve the whole community and meets the challenges of working across two campuses during the ongoing pandemic.

Try and represent the views of those whose voices in the community are often not heard.

Support the school as in transits from a new school to an established school serving the whole community.

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### **Simone Nyack**

#### **I am interested in becoming a parent governor at KAA because:**

To help maintain a great environment for our children to study achieve a great education and be safe.  
To help support the school and challenges that occurs.

#### **I would offer the following skills and experience to the role of parent governor:**

I am a committee member for my housing association where I am the events manager, organising and managing events. I run after school clubs in various schools, and also do a lot of community events and workshops, and am an arts award teacher. As a college tutor, I have a very strong background in the educational field.

#### **If elected I would seek to help with:**

I am used to working in educational settings on my own or alongside a team which I really enjoy. I will be able to support with any advice or challenges you may have and will be to be happy to commit to responsibilities and meetings.

### **Brad Rosser**

**Candidate video:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OHOn06c7OH9zDbtnKPvfalctQ\\_Wj1fdA/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OHOn06c7OH9zDbtnKPvfalctQ_Wj1fdA/view?usp=sharing)

#### **I am interested in becoming a parent governor at KAA because:**

I am passionate about helping children gain a first-class education to allow them to have opportunities regardless of wealth, background or privilege. I have a special interest in introducing entrepreneurial teaching to students and have put together programs and lectured at Universities and schools. I would like to make a difference to young people and believe helping education in some form is the way to utilise my skills and give something back to society.

#### **I would offer the following skills and experience to the role of parent governor:**

I have a first-class honours in Accounting and Finance from UVA where I was awarded a scholarship and used it to gain a Masters from Cornell University with distinction. I have worked in high performance organisations like McKinsey and Co and worked directly for Sir Richard Branson. I am a director of a public company and understand director's responsibilities. I have taught at Universities and schools and understand teaching and the dedication required.

#### **If elected I would seek to:**

Help to ensure that KAA continues to invest in its students and look at new and unique ways to improve the education of its students.

Further I could help fund-raise for special projects if required.

Finally, I am a keen sportsman and would look to see that all sport is available to students.

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