



Friday 9 January 2026

Dear Etonbury Parents & Carers,

We recently advertised a vacancy for a Parent Governor and have received four excellent applications. The process is now for a ballot of parents to elect the new Governor. Please take the time to read the attached statements and then use the GoogleForm to vote for your preferred candidate.

There are four candidates;

Candidate 1 - Paul Dennison

I am applying for the role of Parent Governor at Etonbury Academy because I want to contribute positively to the school's direction and ensure that every child in our community is given the best possible opportunities.

I have two children currently attending Etonbury and two step-children also at the school, which gives me a strong, personal understanding of the school environment and the needs of local families. I am also actively involved in the local community through Scouts, local projects, and my business, which keeps me closely connected to the real issues affecting young people and parents.

Professionally, I run a local business where I manage staff, budgets, compliance, and operational decisions. This gives me practical experience in analysing information, asking direct questions, and holding systems to account-while staying solutions-focused and supportive. These are core skills for an effective governor.

I am particularly interested in behaviour, attendance, and pastoral care, and in strengthening communication between the school and the community. I would bring reliability, clear thinking, and a willingness to engage fully with meetings, training, and school visits.

Etonbury plays a major part in the lives of my family and many others locally. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute my experience and commitment to the Governing Body and help the school continue improving for all students.

Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Bedfordshire, SG15 6XS

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Principal: Mrs Joanne Young



Candidate 2 - Mark Gingell

I am applying to become a Parent Governor because I care deeply about helping Etonbury continue to grow, improve, and inspire every child who walks through its doors. With children in both the lower and senior school, I see first hand what school life looks like from different stages of the pupil journey with their daily challenges, their achievements, and the support they need to truly thrive.

Professionally, I bring strong experience from working with multinational companies in the transport sector, focusing on long term strategy, developing people, and building diverse, future ready teams. This includes helping shape the future of transport through innovative, sustainable solutions. These skills mirror the core responsibilities of governance in strategic thinking, accountability, and ensuring the organisation is equipped for the future. I believe this experience places me in a strong position to positively support Etonbury's ongoing development.

I am also very active within the local community as a coach at Stotfold Juniors Football Club, where I work with a brilliant group of U10s. Seeing how young people grow when they are encouraged, challenged, and believed in has given me a deep appreciation of the role adults play in shaping a child's confidence and aspirations.

Alongside this, I also work professionally in talent identification and scouting as Head of Women's Academy Scouting at Peterborough United Football Club. This role has strengthened my ability to spot potential, create supportive pathways, and nurture ambition. All of which are principles I believe are equally important in the school environment.

Above all, I believe that every child at Etonbury should feel they have the opportunity to succeed and that their success strengthens the entire school community. I would be proud to contribute my experience, energy, and commitment to help shape the environment that makes this possible.

Candidate 3 - Jonathan Underwood

I would like to become a governor at Etonbury Academy because I am deeply committed to supporting the school that plays such an important part in my daughter's education. I have previously served as a governor at three different schools, supporting both of my children as they have progressed through their learning journeys. I believe my background in business leadership equips me with the skills to provide constructive challenge and strategic support, always placing pupil learning, wellbeing, and safety at the centre of every decision.



Candidate 4 - Imogen Weekes

I am passionate about education and keen to be able to help maximise the educational opportunities for children at Etonbury by bringing my skills and experience to the role of Parent Governor. My daughter is in year 5 and the role Etonbury plays in the education of local children is essential to our community.

I have a strong background and knowledge of schools and understanding of the education system and curriculum through my job as a professional development manager at a national education organisation.

I am highly skilled and experienced in strategy development and delivery, project management, HR policies and procedures and teacher CPD through my day job. I am used to working in a team, decision making and working in a confidential manner, all skills and attributes I believe would be a positive contribution to the Governing Body. I have a good understanding of school governance having been a parent governor at a local lower school for 3 years.

Please [click here](#) to vote via our GoogleForm, please make one candidate vote, all votes remain confidential.

The closing date for the ballot is 16 January 2026. Subject to satisfactory DBS checks and references the candidate with the most votes will then be welcomed on to the Governing Board.

If you do have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email, JChristopher@bestacademies.org.uk

Thank you for your time and support.

Kind regards,

Dr John Christopher
Chair, Etonbury Governors

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