



AN ACADEMY WITH SPECIALIST STATUS IN ENGINEERING

ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER



Name	Governor Status	Business/ Engineering Experience	Community Links	Educational Experience
David Hermitt	Staff	Graduate Engineer		Headteacher
Steve Archer	Staff			Cover Supervisor
Mark Hickton	Staff	Sales & Marketing in Aerospace and Ceramics Industries		Teacher
Janet Newton	Staff	Farming		Guidance Team Leader
Carol Taylor	Staff	ICI	Youth Club organiser	School Technical Service Manager
Helen Vale	Staff			Curriculum Team Leader (Art)
Fiona Hampton	Parent	Berisfords	Congleton Partnership	
Rachel Hodges	Parent	Astra Zeneca	Scouts and New Life Church	
David Hogg	Parent	Astra Zeneca	Congleton Round Table, Dane Valley ASC	
Lynne Mellor	Parent	Human Resources		Staffordshire University
Craig Priday	Parent	SMS Mevac		
Judith Shatwell	Parent	Local Government - Cheshire East		
Keith Vickers	Parent	Acoustics Engineer	Astbury Primary School	
Richard Benson	Appointed	Astra Zeneca		
Geoff Eardley	Appointed	Small Business Owner		
Richard Hinckley	Appointed	Retired Engineer	P & N Footpath Society	
Andy Pear	Appointed	Business owner		
Will Spendilow	Appointed	IT - Barclays	New Life Church	Delivering DebtCred in School
Graham Hilditch	Appointed	Chartered Engineer, Sellafield	Teach First	
Prof Torfeh Sadat-Shafai	Appointed	Professor		Staffordshire University
Peter McNulty	Co-opted	Chartered Accountant		
Head Boy and Head Girl	Associate			

## Staff Governors

David Hermitt



David is married with 4 children.

He has been Headteacher at Congleton High School since September 2005.

He studied Engineering at Sheffield University before completing a PGCE and becoming a Science Teacher at a large school in Rotherham. He was promoted to Head of Physics in Doncaster and then progressed to become Head of Science at a large urban school in South Derbyshire. In 1997 he became part of the Senior Leadership Team of a large semi-rural School in North Derbyshire as Assistant Headteacher. He has the unusual experience starting a new school new Church of England sponsored school in Inner city Nottingham in 2002. He was appointed Deputy Headteacher and later became its acting Headteacher in 2004.

Steve Archer



My eldest daughter finished Congleton High School after passing her 'A' Levels and will soon start MMU in Crewe. My youngest daughter begins her secondary school career at Congleton High School.

I am now in my third year at Congleton High School, working as a Cover Supervisor and TA. I have 25 years manufacturing experience at a local world leading business.

Mark Hickton



I joined the teaching staff in 2002 and have responsibility for the History Department within the Humanities curriculum area. I also teach Government and Politics as part of the School's Option K programme. Prior to becoming a teacher I worked for 22 years in various positions in the ceramics and aerospace industries.

Janet Newton



Janet is a Guidance Team Leader at the school.

She teaches English and has an additional responsibility for developing literacy across the curriculum. She also acts as Professional Mentor for the Initial Teacher Training programme at the school.

Carol Taylor



I am married with three children, 2 sons and 1 daughter, who all attended Heathfield High School and Congleton High School. I like to play badminton, cycling and I am a fair weather gardener.

I began my career at ICI Alderley Park in research in the Chemistry Department and continued studies through day release for five years, gaining an honours degree in Chemistry, GRIC, Graduate of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. Following a 10 year break to raise my family I began a part-time position as science technician at Dane Valley High School. When the schools were re-organised in 2000 I was appointed as Technical Services Manager at Congleton High School and have remained at the school since that time.

As well as my scientific skills, my more recent role at the school has enabled me to develop management of people skills. During my children's time at Heathfield High I took an active role in the PTA. For 7 years I organised a youth club for pupils in years 7 -9 which ran once a month.

Helen Vale



Helen is the Curriculum Team Leader for Art at the school.

She joined the staff in September 2005, following 6 years of industrial experience working as a Children's wear designer supplying all the major high street retailers.

She has taken on the role of SEAL co-ordinator.

## Parent Governors

Fiona Hampton



I am married with 2 children at secondary school. I was born in Knutsford and have lived in Congleton for 35 years. Since graduating in 1986 with a B.A. in Clothing Studies, I have been employed by Berisfords Ltd in Congleton. Berisfords specialises in Ribbons and Trimming for Textiles and Packaging and has been in Congleton for 150 years, employing 100 people. Initially I was employed as Customer Contact Designer, liaising with major High Street stores such as Marks and Spencer, Body Shop and Thorntons. My role then developed and I became Marketing Manager, with the objective of developing new products and communicating with the textile and packaging markets. In 1995 I was appointed Marketing and Design Director, responsible for worldwide marketing through web design, brochures, direct mail and customer presentation, promoting Berisfords as the UK's largest ribbon manufacturer.

I have a wide range of business and organisational skills involving sales, marketing, departmental and corporate budget control. In addition I have attended many business related courses involving team building, managing organisational change, customer relationship management and finance. These, on top of the marketing and design attributes, ensure that I have an overall understanding of business organisation, planning and control. Managing a team has also involved recruitment, knowledge of disciplinary procedures and business law, which are relevant when restructuring, reviewing and re-organising. I am currently involved with Congleton Regeneration Partnership as part of the Marketing Team to transform Congleton with the 'Beartown' Brand. Our main aim is to create a brand for the town that can be used by local businesses, schools and clubs to promote Congleton as the place to live, work and learn.

Rachel Hodges



I am married to Mark and we have three children. Our sons, Jack and Adam, are both at Congleton High School and our daughter Kate attends The Quinta Primary School. In my spare time I enjoy reading, gardening, cooking, DIY, walking and camping. For over 25 years I have worked at the AstraZeneca Alderley Park site, originally for ICI. I work full-time as a Section Lead in the Research Quality Management Group, in addition to project management and leading process improvement projects. Several years ago I gained the Diploma in Research Quality Assurance and continued to study through the Open University to achieve qualifications in Professional Management. More recently, I have completed an MSc in Quality Management. I am also a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. Over time, I have gained experience in the monitoring and implementation of regulations required for compliance by the pharmaceutical industry, and expertise in Quality Management, Project Management, training, working in a global environment and leading cross-functional global project teams.

Currently I am Chairman of the British Association of Research Quality Assurance.

I am a member of the New Life Church in Congleton and a District Scout Leader for Congleton Scout Groups. In addition, I am supporter and member of the PIP (Parents in Partnership) at Congleton High School.

David Hogg



I have lived in Congleton for 17 years, apart from a 3 year spell in Italy. I am married to Karen with one daughter in Year 10 at the school. My hobbies and interests include 5-a-side football, cooking, real ale (see below) and Glentoran FC (Belfast).

I have worked for ICI/Zeneca/AstraZeneca for 23 years, with spells in Grangemouth, Bristol, Macclesfield and Milan. I am qualified with an M.Eng. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. During my career I have worked as a Project Engineer and a Process Automation Manager before moving into Quality Systems Management and ultimately Quality Assurance and Auditing in the IT area. Outside of work I am actively involved with Congleton Round Table, including a spell as Chairman, and heavily involved in the Congleton Summer Beer Festival and the Round Table Santa Float. I have recently become Chairman of Dane Valley Amateur Swimming Club.

Lynne Mellor



I am married with one child, William, who currently attends Congleton High School. Having been a keen observer of my son's education over recent years, I am enthusiastic and honoured to have this valuable opportunity to use my skills and experience to contribute to the governance of the school.

For some thirty years I have held the position of a senior Human Resource Manager within the University sector, initially at Sheffield Hallam University and for the past twenty years, more locally, at Staffordshire University. I have extensive experience of handling a wide range of people issues within an academic environment and I am professionally respected for the work I do in supporting managers in their leadership, management and development of both teaching and non-teaching staff. I am also experienced in working very closely with senior staff of the University in the delivery of strategy and the management of change in response to the continual development of the business of education.

I would like to think that my wealth of professional experience in the area of people management and in the field of education is of benefit to the school.

Craig Priday



I live in Congleton with my wife and our two children, who both study at Congleton High School. In my spare time I enjoy music, gardening and gadgets. I have a BSc (Hons) in Metallurgy and Materials Science from Imperial College, London. I started as a metallurgist with British Steel and moved to Cheshire to SMS Mevac UK in 1990. SMS Mevac is an international engineering company supplying capital equipment for the processing of liquid steel. During my time with the company I have carried out various project engineering and management roles and for the last 10 years I have been Managing Director. SMS Mevac supports the school by sponsoring competitions, participating in engineering events and offering work experience to CHS students.

During my career I have engineered and commissioned large scale machines for customers worldwide. In order to be successful I have had to be practical, adaptable, self motivated, display good problem solving skills, and most importantly, common sense. As Managing Director I need good people skills, and of course be able to handle financial information and see the "big picture". I became a Parent Governor in 2005 because I wanted to help make the school a good place for my children to learn.

Judith Shatwell



I have two children at Congleton High School. Both are very happy and enjoy school life. I am qualified in Hotel Catering and Management and after spells working in the catering industry and estate agency I have now worked in Local Government for 25 years, first for Congleton Borough Council and now Cheshire East Council.

I was born in Stockport and brought up in High Peak but have now adopted Congleton as my home town having lived here for nearly 18 years.

I was instrumental in setting up Friends of Quinta when my children were there and acted as Secretary also organising various events at the school. I was also Clerk to the Governing Body of CHS for 5 years.

In my spare time I enjoy cooking, gardening and music - having recently rediscovered my talents as a pianist, I am currently taking piano lessons for the first time in 40 years! I also have an interest in complementary therapies such as reflexology and aromatherapy. I am also a great cat lover, having two tabby cats.

Keith Vickers



I am father of four children, three of whom currently attend Congleton High School.

I have an Honours degree in Electroacoustics. My present role is Applications Specialist for a global supplier of solutions in sound and vibration. Its customers include Automotive, Aerospace / Defence and general industry. Previous experience has included working as Telecommunications Development Engineer and Project Manager (Military Communications). I am a member of the Institute of Acoustics. I have experience in all aspects of environmental, occupational, industrial and product noise and vibration applications. A significant part of my employment includes training on noise and vibration related topics to companies in the automotive, aerospace and industrial sectors.

## Appointed Governors

Richard Benson  
Vice Chair



My name is Richard Benson and I am married with two children. I live locally and I have been a Governor at Congleton High School since its inception. I am currently serving as Community Governor but previously serviced as a Parent Governor while my children were being educated here.

I previously worked for AstraZeneca as an IT Manager for over thirty years, but I am now pursuing a new career as a semi-professional executive with responsibility for planning in respect of a local partnership. I am also a Trustee for a local charity serving East Cheshire. In my time at AstraZeneca I learnt a lot about dealing with change and I believe that this experience has helped me to support the school as the educational system across the country faces up to a period of continual change.

In my spare time I like to keep fit by running and I can often be seen pounding the streets and lanes in and around Congleton. I have run five marathons and I tentatively plan to run my final marathon in three years time when I am sixty. I believe passionately in the value of a good education and I am very proud to serve as a Governor of this school.

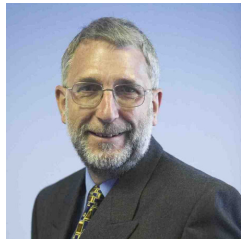
Geoff Eardley



I am married with three sons, who all received a well-balanced education at this site, and have gained success in their chosen fields. Following many years in business I have now been put out to pasture in my retirement.

I first became a Parent Governor here over 30 years ago and was one of the first people in the country to successfully complete the Open University Course on governing schools. Sometime later, when my children left the school, I was co-opted onto the Governing Body. When the school became Congleton High School I was asked by the Local Authority to be one of their representatives at the school. 20 years of my service have been as Chairman and I also chaired the Transitional Governors during the Reorganisation of Education in Congleton. I find the role of Governor extremely rewarding. It is an opportunity to utilise my skills and experiences to help the school and it is very enjoyable to work with such a diverse and committed team.

Richard Hinckley  
Chair of Governors



After graduating as an electronics engineer I spent my career in the computer industry until I retired. During that period I performed many engineering and management roles, qualified as a professional project manager and finished my career as divisional head of project management for a major computer company.

I first became a governor of Heathfield School in 1988 and was part of the Governing Body that oversaw the difficult period of school amalgamation in Congleton, and the creation of Congleton High School. I have been Vice-Chair of Governors and Chair of the Premises, Community and Business Sub-Committee since Congleton High School was formed. I am also a member of the Head Teacher's Performance Review Panel, and I am Link Governor for Health & Safety, Safeguarding Children and Investors in People.

I would like to think that my industrial and management experience, coupled with my 20 years as a Governor is of benefit to the school. My motivation in being involved is because I passionately believe that a good education will give the children of our community a better start in their adult lives, whatever their ability and background.

Andy Pear



Andy Pear was born and still lives in Congleton, he is married with four children and enjoys horse riding and clay pigeon shooting as hobbies. He was educated at Sandbach Grammar School and went on to join Lewis's Selfridges department stores, before pursuing a career in Medical sales and marketing. He went to university in 1998 and was awarded an MBA.

Andy is a businessman, together with his wife Sue, he owns three local businesses, Reliance Medical Ltd, Pecks Restaurant Ltd and Pear Property Developments Ltd. All three of these businesses are very successful. He is heavily involved with the British Healthcare Trades Association and works for the British Standards Institute within European Standards Committees.

Andy chaired the Parents in Partnership group for three years and has been a governor for seven years. He has had three children at the school, two of them are still students. Andy believes that his business knowledge is valuable to the school where he performs the role of a critical friend within the board of governors.

Will Spendilow



I have been married for over 31 years to Kathryn and have 3 daughters, two of whom attended the school when it was formerly Heathfield High. Having obtained a degree in Computing Science in the mid 1970's I spent over 31 years working in commercial IT working at Allied Breweries, British Aerospace and for over 22 years at Barclays Bank based at Radbroke Hall, Knutsford where I was involved in or leading IT projects with an emphasis in IT design and architecture. During all this time I have been involved in a very wide range of both IT and business areas, with wide-ranging roles and responsibilities. I ended my IT career in 2008.

I now do something very different. I work at the New Life Church in Congleton helping to lead or operate a number of community based initiatives e.g. the Food Storehouse working with Social Services, Adullam homes, PlusDane Housing and other agencies. I deal with the church finances and undertake a number of other roles too.

I also deliver financial literacy classes on behalf of DebtCred to both our local High Schools which I enjoy very much and brings me into regular contact with the school. I see it as a privilege to serve as a governor and hope over time I can make a valuable contribution.

Graham Hilditch



After graduating with a BSc (Hons) in Engineering from the University of Leicester, I've spent most of my career in various engineering roles. I am currently working as a Chartered Engineer for Sellafield Ltd, (formerly British Nuclear Fuels Ltd) based in Warrington. I have been awarded an MBA and passionately believe in lifelong learning.

Sellafield Ltd has made a commitment to support employee involvement in a range of community activities and is looking to strengthen community links particularly with educational establishments and I look forward as a new Partnership Governor to building upon and strengthening the links between the school and industry.

I am married to Fiona, a Modern Languages teacher at CHS and have thoroughly enjoyed supporting a number of school events including the German exchange (escorting students to Trier), the Young Apprentices scheme (escorting students to Hamburg) and organising activities for Engineering Week.

I currently act as an assessor and mentor to aspiring Chartered Engineers on behalf of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and also act as a coach for trainee teachers on the Teach First programme.

Professor  
Torfeh Sadat Shafai



I have three children who all attended Congleton High School. I am very much family orientated and enjoy cooking for family and friends. I also enjoy woodwork and a variety of sports such as football and basketball.

I am Professor of Physical Electronics at Staffordshire University. I am committed to high quality teaching with more than 25 years experience at National and International level. This has involved curriculum development for a large number of undergraduate and postgraduate awards, success in securing external funding, external examiner and advisor for several UK and overseas Universities, and I am a member of the steering committee for work based learning MSc at the Engineering Council UK.

I became a governor as my children were students at the school and I had a considerable interest in promoting the school's activities and enhancing its profile. In September 2002 I was elected as Community Governor. This has enabled me to support CHS in a much bigger capacity to gain Engineering Status. During this period I was able to create a partnership with a school in Hamburg and also the Technical University of Hamburg, where I held the Chair of Professor of General Engineering for the International Engineering Programme. Currently I have set up a partnership with Staffordshire University Faculty of Computing Engineering and Technology which enables CHS students to visit the University and improve their engineering skills.

## Co-Opted

Peter McNulty



I left university with a degree in Law and subsequently qualified as a Chartered Accountant in the heart of London. I was tempted back to my roots in 1994 and became a partner at Hammond McNulty in July 1997. My initial background was audit and assurance based but since joining Hammond McNulty I have widened my scope to include advising unincorporated entities and now regularly provide business and taxation advice to small and medium sized owner managed businesses. It is with this background that I feel that I can perform the role of Responsible Officer and provide the Governing Body with an on-going independent oversight of the Academy's financial affairs.

I am married to a teacher and have two sons. I am a keen sportsman and have been proud to represent Congleton on the rugby field but now concentrate on coaching rather than playing rugby. I am also a member of Astbury Golf Club where I strive to maintain a competent handicap, but remain very much a fair weather golfer.

## Associate Governors

**Head Boy & Head Girl** Each year the Head boy and Head Girl become Associate Governors as part of their role. They are invited to attend each full governor meeting to represent the views of the student body. They are joint chairs of the student Council and In the Autumn Term they carry out a survey of all students to gain their views. These will then be presented to the full Governors in the Spring Term.