



**TAUNTON
SCHOOL**



GOVERNOR INFORMATION PACK

March 2020

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Welcome from the Chair of Governors

Dear Applicant,

I hope that when you have read this information pack you will feel inspired to join our Board of Governors.

You would be joining us as a Governor at an exciting time. We have a well-established, collaborative Board of Governors and a dedicated, passionate workforce.

We are seeking to appoint a Governor who has worked previously as a head teacher of a primary or secondary school of some size.

We would welcome an application from you if you:

- Have the relevant experience
- Appreciate the commitment and role of a Governor.
- Are a strategic thinker, with ability to identify opportunities and risks.
- Have a passion for education
- Have good communication skills and would enjoy working as part of a close and friendly Board of Governors.

We look forward to hearing from you.
With Best wishes

Henry Keeling
Chair of Governors



About the School – We challenge, nurture and inspire.

Taunton School is an independent Church school, founded in 1847 as an all boy's school. In 1973 it became one of the first co-educational independent schools by welcoming both boys and girls. The 56-acre campus features the beautiful Grade II listed school and houses the Nursery and Pre-Prep, the Preparatory School, the Senior School, and Taunton School International. Taunton School International Middle School has its own campus just 3 miles from the central campus.



Today this non-selective school has around one thousand pupils representing forty nationalities from the ages of 0-18.

The wellbeing of students is at the heart of everything the school does with their main focus being to ensure that they prepare young people for their lives beyond school in a rapidly changing world. Innovative, forward thinking, global in outlook and down to earth in approach, the school recognises that a balanced education is vital in developing the whole person.

Academically, pupils consistently do well and achieve exceptional GCSE, A/AS Level, IB and BTEC results. More than 40 of pupils have been offered Oxford or Cambridge places in the last 10 years and approximately 94% of all Sixth Formers take up university or college places either in the UK or overseas. Whilst others join the armed forces, take up apprenticeships or enter the workplace.

The school provides a sporting programme which enables those pupils striving for sporting excellence and elite performance, in county, regional and national competitions with high quality, experienced and well qualified coaches and a performance programme to support and

guide them physically and mentally. However, the fundamental goal is one of enjoyment and participation.

Equal importance is placed upon the performing arts, clubs and activities and outdoor education providing opportunities for all pupils of every ability to participate, engage and take ownership in “broadening their own horizon”.



With an annual income of c£21.5m and outgoings of c£20.5m, this is a tightly run and financially well managed School, the Governors are mindful of the challenge of increasing school fees against stationery inflation rates, the importance of ensuring pupil numbers remain optimum and aim to make and reinvest an annual surplus.

Charitable Benefit

Fee assistance is awarded to current pupils, on the recommendation of the Headmaster, in exceptional cases of need. Other charitable purpose of this kind is exercised through the Assisted Places programme which provides means tested financial support to new entrants who would otherwise be unable to attend the School. In 2017/18 the School awarded bursaries and scholarships totalling £2,891,904 to 380 pupils including 3 for full fees. Those pupils who attend the School and who receive financial support contribute to the School community in a variety of ways, and so the benefit is not purely to these pupils but to the whole School and, in some cases, to the wider community.

For more information please visit our website: www.tauntonschool.co.uk
Taunton School Educational Charity is a Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registered Charity Number: 1081420

Governor Role Description

Duties and responsibilities:

- Provide the direction for management and policies of the School and ensure compliance with charity, legal and financial governance;
- Ensure the appropriate use of Taunton School funds and assets in pursuit of its strategic objectives and oversee the management of the resources and assets;
- Make well informed and high quality decisions based on a clear line of sight into the business and its activities;
- Assess and evaluate the School's performance as a member of the Board;
- Commit to attending and contributing to termly board meetings;
- Represent the Board, if necessary, on internal staff and/or student disciplinary and complaint panels or other panels, and on external bodies by agreement;
- Understand and accept the responsibilities as a governor of the School, act properly at all times and declare any impediment or conflict of interest relevant to the role;
- Take personal responsibility for commitment as a Governor, sending apologies and catching up with matters or issues missed through absence at meetings;
- Act in good faith with due care and diligence and in the best interests of the School at all times;
- Undertake relevant and appropriate mandatory training in relation to safeguarding and compliance;

Person Specification:

- Integrity and honesty
- Commitment to Taunton School and a willingness and ability to devote the necessary time and effort to the duties as a Governor
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties and responsibility as a Governor
- Experience of building and sustaining relationships with key stakeholders and colleagues to achieve organisational objectives
- Able to demonstrate sound judgement and effective decision making
- A history of impartiality, fairness and the ability to respect confidentiality
- A commitment to promoting equality and diversity
- Preparedness to make recommendations to the board, and a willingness to speak their mind
- Willingness to be available to staff for advice and enquiries on an ad-hoc basis
- Good, independent judgement and strategic vision
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team
- Experience of working in the education sector

Other Information

Term of Office

Governors are appointed by the Board for a term of three years which a total of four terms to be served subject to a satisfactory performance.

Meetings

The Board of Governors meet three times a year on a Saturday morning at the School. Dates for 2020 meetings are: - *****

Committees

As well as serving on the Main Board, Governors typically belong to at least one committee who also meet three times a year. The committees focus on Finance, Marketing, Education, Church and Nominations. These meetings take place during the week at the School. Timings are flexible according to availability of Governors.

Expenses Whilst the role is unpaid, reasonable expenses are payable in line with School's standard expenses policy.

Recruitment Process

- A meeting with our recruitment partner, Jackie Dawkins, Shine Charity Recruitment (01884/841751 or jackie@shinecharityrecruitment.co.uk)
- Please send your CV and supporting statement to Jackie
- In initial and informal meeting with two current Governors
- A further meeting with four further Governors and the two School Headteachers, lunch and a visit to the School
- Completion of the Governor Application Pack and return to Jackie Dawkins
- References and DBS checks
- A formal invitation to join the Board
- Safeguarding training