

Personal Statements

<p>Gavin Burnell</p>	<p>My family have lived in LS6 for 17 years. Our elder son will be taking his A-levels at Notre Dame this summer and our younger son hopes to join the Notre Dame community next year. We have seen how the combination of outstanding academic support coupled with the ethos of a Catholic institution can benefit young people no matter their backgrounds.</p> <p>I am an associate professor of Physics at the University of Leeds where, as well as hands-on teaching, I am a head of year and also the exams officer. This gives me a good understanding of many of the challenges that young adults face, and of the bigger picture of post-16 education. Through this I have come to appreciate the importance of encouraging all young people to fulfil their academic potential.</p> <p>I could bring a range of useful experience and skills as a parent governor. Managing research teams, budgets and large projects is an integral part of modern academic life. I was involved in the design and planning for the new Bragg building just across the road from the college. I also have extensive voluntary experience as a charity trustee – most recently with a local Scout group, and on the trustee body of Quakers in Yorkshire. I did an 8-year term as a member of planning committees for the national annual gathering of Quakers in Britain, including a couple as co-chair.</p>
<p>David Ellis</p>	<p>As a committed father and strong advocate for inclusive education, I'm excited by the opportunity to serve Notre Dame as a Parent Governor. Here's why:</p> <p>My son is a current student, and my daughter will apply in a few years, so I have a strong vested interest in the college's continued success. My eldest son graduated from Notre Dame last summer and my wife works in education as a teacher in a local Catholic school. Together, these different perspectives give me a unique sense of the challenges and opportunities faced by students, parents, and staff. I think I can put this insight to good use.</p> <p>I deeply understand the transformative benefits that access to a quality education can bring. I'm from a single parent family and I'm forever grateful for the support I got from my state sixth form. This helped me progress my studies to undergraduate and then postgraduate level. These academic experiences gave me the skills and confidence to build a rewarding career. I now have professional competences that I want to apply to help the governors make great decisions.</p> <p>I've lived in Leeds for 30 years and I'm passionate about seeing its citizens thrive. I actively participate in local events and have a strong network within the area. I've volunteered at Moortown Golf Club and Chapel Allerton Tennis Club, facilitating high achievement in their junior sections by developing a supportive team culture, where everyone is valued. So, I believe I'm well positioned to help foster relationships between Notre Dame and the wider community.</p> <p>Above all, I'm enthusiastic about contributing to the college's governance and supporting its mission. I promise to act in the best interest of the college and always uphold its values.</p> <p>Thank you for considering me. David Ellis MBA BA(Hons) FCMI</p>
<p>Gary Kilbride</p>	<p>As an experienced professional with a strong background in project and programme management, coupled with a passion for education and community service, I am excited to apply for the School Governor role at Notre Dame College in Leeds. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a commitment to excellence, integrity, and collaboration, qualities that align closely with the values and ethos of Notre Dame College.</p>

	<p>My experience in leadership roles, particularly in overseeing complex projects and managing stakeholder relationships, has equipped me with the skills necessary to make informed decisions and provide strategic direction to support the school's continued growth and success. I am dedicated to ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education and opportunities for personal and academic development.</p> <p>As a School Governor, I am eager to contribute my expertise in governance, finance, and strategic planning to help shape policies and initiatives that promote student achievement, well-being, and inclusivity. I am committed to fostering a supportive and nurturing environment where every student can thrive and reach their full potential.</p> <p>I am invested in the success of Notre Dame College and am excited about the opportunity to serve as a School Governor. I look forward to working collaboratively with the leadership team, staff, students, and parents to uphold the college's values and deliver an outstanding educational experience for all.</p>
<p>Konrad Kinard</p>	<p>My name is Konrad Kinard, a Texas native. Since 1998 I have lived and worked in the UK, lecturing in Music and related subjects in London and Leeds and the surrounding areas. My son, Taro, attends Notre Dame College as a year 12 student in sciences. I am asking to be considered for a position of Parent Governor on the board of Notre Dame College.</p> <p>Though I arrived in the UK in 1998, I did live in Berlin for 4 years. There I was part of what they called a Parent-initiative School. I with several other parents literally built the school as a bilingual space, starting with 14 children and reaching the maximum 4 years later of 250. What I learned was that active participation in the education of my children was important to me. I learned quite a bit about the plight of the teachers and administration and the basic needs of running a school.</p> <p>I work in Leeds at a SEND school in Facilities Management for up to five sites. I work closely with that board on issues and decisions that the SEND school faces. I feel that these experiences have allowed me a unique perspective that would be beneficial to Notre Dame College.</p> <p>To be engaged in the educational environment where my own child is present is motivation enough, but the desire to help make the experience a positive and productive experience for students and staff would be an honour, if elected as a Parent Governor.</p>
<p>Jon Wood</p>	<p>I am a highly experienced Operations Director within the FMCG and now the Education industry with over 27 years managerial and leadership experience. I have operated at board level now for 15 years and have built up a reputation for turning around poorly performing facilities and businesses. I am also very experienced in working with all the major retailers and foodservice customers throughout my career. I am currently working at Pearson in our Qualifications Services Business Unit working closely with Education centres throughout the UK. I am responsible for our processing units based in Hellaby near Sheffield. We run a high quality digital processing, high quality, integrated and customer focused operation. We process more than 9 million results and recruit 30,000 examiners per annum covering General Qualifications, Vocational Qualifications, Vocational Qualifications, International Qualifications and National Curriculum Tests to time quality and service. Our leading brands are Edexcel, LCCI and BTEC qualifications.</p> <p>I feel I have an experienced and varied background to support your excellent college at governor level.</p>
<p>Tracey Young</p>	<p>I would love to have the opportunity to become a parent governor and provide my expertise in this field.</p>

	<p>I have previous experience as a Leeds city Enterprise Coordinator. I have 10 years experience as a SEND Education Recruitment Consultant. I am also able to commit to meetings and would love to get involved.</p>
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